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Denis Kania, Peter Olson
Michael L.P. Retter

Pre-Press Production
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TKAde@aol.com

Printing
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Illinois Ornithological Society

President's Message

This President's Message is the last from my three years in office. In *Meadowlark's* next issue, it will be IOS's fourth president speaking to you in this column. Periods with new leadership are wonderful opportunities for an organization to capitalize on new energy and ideas while allowing continued growth of worthwhile efforts begun in years past. IOS is poised at this juncture to do just that, with a talented and energetic board of directors in place coupled with a strong group of volunteers and officers.

One area in which we've had much activity over the last several years is in our communications capabilities using the Internet. Certainly the world wide web has become very important for the flow of information, and we are striving to use this medium for the benefit of IOS members, the Illinois birding community, and for the public at large. We have had some success in this area, yet there is more work to do. Our webmaster Bob Hughes has expanded the web page foundation that was created by Mary Hennen a number of years ago. The web page sports a new look, there are more photos of rarities occurring around the state, and new features like the quarterly photo quiz have been incorporated. In response the web traffic at the IOS site has doubled.

Lister's Corner is now available in an expanded version via the web site, and plans to upload the official Illinois bird list as compiled by IORC, the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee of IOS, should be realized shortly. We also hope to expand our use of email communications to provide members with news and information.

IOS is also proud to have cosponsored the first two Lake Michigan Gull Frolic events in Winthrop Harbor, Lake County. IOS contributed a display of a number of museum gull specimens and a photo quiz for the study and enjoyment of the numerous birders who attended the event, thereby enhancing the experiences provided at the Gull Frolic.

Meadowlark continues as a very strong journal of state bird life; provides a superb collection of a mix of articles, data, information and artwork; and remains a foundation of our organization. I think you'll agree that as an IOS member you are very well served by the journal.

Due to the generosity of members who contribute above the level of basic membership dues, IOS's financial position has solidified. The stable financial base has enabled IOS to start developing additional activities in support of Illinois ornithology and birding, such as the scholarship program for research on Illinois birds that was begun last year. We'd like to do more, but it is necessary to increase our membership to do so.

Increasing the number of members in IOS remains our greatest challenge. A state the size of Illinois with its level of birding activity should be able to support a much larger membership in a statewide birding organization. As we move forward in the years ahead, we will continue the activities and services you have come to expect from IOS, but attracting new members will be an important focus of our efforts.

Geoffrey A. Williamson

Letter from the Editor

The rare and the not-so-rare

Did you notice the handsomely drawn front cover of this issue of Meadowlark? And did you further guess immediately that it is a drawing of a Reeve or female Ruff? If you didn't, don't feel so badly. The Ruff is one of the rarer shorebirds to be seen in Illinois, and there are some birders still waiting to add that species to their Illinois life list.

What I hope you'll notice as much as the front cover is the contents of this issue based on a theme – shorebirds, the rare and the not-so-rare. We birders pay a great deal of attention to the rare ones, the Ruff seen last fall, for example, or the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper seen at Lake Chautauqua recently, and, of course, the Roseate Spoonbill seen in southern Illinois this summer.

But we birders must also pay attention to the not-so-rare shorebirds, the Pectoral Sandpiper, for example. That's not just a Pec. It's one of at the very least 5 percent of the world's population of Pectoral Sandpipers that migrate through Illinois annually. As for those "oh-so-common" Lesser Yellowlegs – at least one-fifth of the world's population migrates through Illinois annually. (See our lead article: An initial estimate of Illinois shorebird numbers and implications for management, beginning on page 42.)

We're losing shorebird habitat in Illinois, as well as throughout the world. The tens of thousands of Pectoral Sandpipers that pass through Illinois today are just a portion of what used to pass through here and other parts of the nation. And if we don't save habitat, they, along with the rare shorebirds we covet will be more and more difficult to find in the state as the years pass.

I hope the articles in this issue inspire you to support and promote current and future regional, state and federal initiatives to protect and create shorebird habitat.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Michael L. P. Retter produced the cover drawing of a female Ruff or Reeve, a species mentioned in this issue's Illinois Ornithological Records Committee Report. Michael is a regular contributor to *Meadowlark*, both as an artist and an author. A longtime Illinois birder and field trip leader, Michael has worked as an interpretive naturalist at Cape May Bird Observatory.

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An Initial Estimate of Illinois Shorebird Numbers and Implications for Management

by Robert Russell

Recent advances in shorebird surveying and monitoring and publication of the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (Brown et al., 2001, 2nd edition) have resulted in initial population estimates for all species of North American shorebirds (see Table 1). The authors of that study considered the population information a first approximation, subject to refinement and revision as additional surveys become available. The quality of these estimates varies from "poor" with an educated guess of 0–50 for the extremely rare Eskimo Curlew now recorded perhaps once a decade (and seldom verified) to an estimate of 6,200 and a high confidence level rating for the often-censussed Piping Plover. Unfortunately, for most species the population estimates tend toward "poor" with only a few species rating a "good" level. Many of those "good" ratings are the result of recent intensive surveys on Arctic breeding and South American and Mexican wintering sites.

For a talk at the recent Illinois Ornithological Society annual meeting in Danville, Illinois, I made initial estimates for all regularly occurring species of Illinois shorebirds. Utilizing published high counts of Illinois shorebirds from *North American Birds* and various Illinois bird books (Bohlen, 1989; Robinson, 1996; and unpublished Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas materials) and some personal knowledge of shorebird routes coupled with input from many Illinois bird folk, helped produce this first approximation of Illinois shorebird population estimates. What is more important to note than the actual numerical estimates is the percentage of the continental population that migrates through or over Illinois, and in many cases this translates to a significant percentage of the world population of a species since many of these species breed only in North America.

Perhaps 20 percent of the world's population of Lesser Yellowlegs migrate through Illinois annually making it of high conservation interest in the state.

That Illinois harbors a significant percentage of the world population of a shorebird species on migration should have major implications for federal and state wildlife managers who can now utilize this information to focus

This photo of a Lesser Yellowlegs was taken by Mary Kay Rubey at the Cooling Sod Farm, Boone County, 23 August 2002.

their management efforts on certain species or suites of species that have similar habitat needs. Managers will be better able to manipulate available habitat to maximize chances for contributing to the welfare of species for which Illinois is best suited rather than the traditional management approach of just creating habitat and seeing which species show up. One should temper this without losing sight of some of our uncommon species where Illinois may have a low percentage of the continental population such as Buff-breasted Sandpiper or Black-bellied Plover, but may still contribute importantly to regional populations and biodiversity.

Historically at least, Black-bellied Plover numbers in northeastern Illinois and adjacent Wisconsin have exceeded counts elsewhere in the Great Lakes. Certainly, viability of this small inland migrant population is important for the overall species richness of the Great Lakes region, although it may not be a significant proportion of the world population. Much of their favored plowed field habitat in northeastern Illinois was ironically "destroyed" by wetland restorations along the Des Plaines River, which attracted more aquatic-loving shorebirds to the site. Yet, brilliant-plumaged adults still occur in late May along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers have seldom exceeded 40 birds at any one site in Illinois during fall, but with a world population estimated at only 15,000, any concentration for this species becomes an important location upon which to focus conservation and management efforts. With the species' strong site fidelity during migration, careful manipulation of known concentration sites could allow for a gradual population buildup over a period of years as occurred at Lake Calumet in the 1970s.

Perhaps 50 percent of the world's population of American Golden-Plovers migrate through Illinois annually, making it a species of high conservation interest in the state.

This photo of an American Golden-Plover was taken at the HESOD farms in McHenry County, 17 August 2003.

Illinois has few migrant Marbled Godwits. Spring numbers seldom exceed 5 birds and the species is even rarer in fall. At first glance this is not a species for which Illinois would seem to have much importance. Many wintering godwits along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts presumably cross over Illinois during migration, likely on non-stop flights from breeding grounds in the Dakotas and Canada's Prairie Provinces. There is the possibility though that some of our Marbled Godwits belong to the rare James Bay, Ontario breeding population (estimated at 1,500). If true, Illinois could be an important stopover for a small, but regionally significant number of these large waders.

A suite of species that Illinois harbors significant populations include the Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. These are species for which flooded cropfields, riverine marshes of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and drawn-down reservoirs and inland lakeshores provide optimal habitat. The estimates for the Greater Yellowlegs at 100,000 and Lesser Yellowlegs at 500,000 appear low, but even these numbers indicate that as 10% or more of the world's population of Greater Yellowlegs and 20% or more of the world's Lesser Yellowlegs may utilize Illinois habitats at some time during the year. Researchers have already indicated that the Solitary Sandpiper estimate of 20,000 is too low and that will be revised upward. It is almost impossible to run any meaningful census in its nearly inaccessible wet boreal forest breeding grounds. No matter what the population of this species, Illinois is almost certainly an important stopover locale. I can find no higher count in North America than the 250 recorded near Lake Calumet on 26 July 1981 and a few night watches on a late April night will indicate to the skeptics how common this species is, at least as a flyover in northeastern Illinois.

Pectoral Sandpipers, like many shorebirds, are opportunistic migrants and were often noted as abundant by early Midwestern naturalists. With a world population estimated at 400,000 and large numbers periodically noted in the state, Illinois appears to be a major flyway for this species with numbers larger in fall than spring (Bohlen, 1989) when the species takes a more westerly bearing moving up the eastern and central Great Plains. Illinois may see as many as 15,000 to 30,000 of these birds moving through the state spring and fall, likely a small percentage of what once occurred here, but still at least 5% of the world's population. Recently a Pectoral

Table 1. World and Illinois Population Estimates for Shorebirds

Species	World Population estimate	Illinois Population estimate
Black-bellied Plover	150,000	1,000-2,500 (most FO?)
American Golden-Plover*	150,000	50,000-75,000+
Semipalmated Plover	150,000	5,000-10,000
Piping Plover*	3,450 (Gr. Lks & Gr. Plains)	100-300 (most FO)
Killdeer	2,000,000	100,000-200,000+migrants; 25,000-50,000 pr. breed
Black-necked Stilt	150,000	0-5 pr. breed
American Avocet	450,000	100-200
Greater Yellowlegs*LE	100,000	10,000-15,000
Lesser Yellowlegs*LE	500,000	80,000-100,000
Solitary Sandpiper*LE	25,000 (both races)	2,000-4,000
Willet	160,000 (inland race)	200-1,000 (mostly FO)
Spotted Sandpiper	150,000	no estimate for migrants; 1,000-3,000 pr. breed
Upland Sandpiper*	350,000	500-1,000 migrants; 250-500 pr. breed
Eskimo Curlew	fewer than 50?	0-5
Whimbrel	17,000 (Hudson Bay race)	50?
Long-billed Curlew	20,000	0-10 (FO)
Hudsonian Godwit	50,000 (both races)	50-200
Marbled Godwit*	171,500 (1,500-Hudson B.)	25-100 (mostly FO)
Ruddy Turnstone	235,000	500-2,500
Red Knot	320,000 (2 of 3 subsp.)	50-200
Sanderling*	300,000	2,500-5,000
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3,500,000	10,000-25,000
Western Sandpiper	3,500,000	500-2,500+ (many FO)
Least SandpiperLE	600,000	20,000-35,000
White-rumped Sandpiper	400,000	500-2,500
Baird's Sandpiper	300,000	250-1,000
Pectoral Sandpiper*LE	400,000	30,000-50,000
Purple Sandpiper	15,000 (N America only)	1-10
Dunlin	975,000 (2 of 3 subsp.)	10,000-20,000
Stilt Sandpiper	200,000	1,000-2,500
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	15,000	250-500
Short-billed Dowitcher*	60,000 (hendersoni)	2,500-5,000
Long-billed Dowitcher	500,000	500-2,500
Wilson's Snipe*	2,000,000	20,000-50,000 migrants (50-100 pr. breed)
American Woodcock*	Not Available	no estimate for migrants; 1,000-2,500 pr. breed.
Wilson's Phalarope	1,500,000	100-500; 0-5 pr. breed
Red-necked Phalarope	2,500,000	25-100
Red Phalarope	1,000,000	0-5

FO=fly overs (estimated) * Important Illinois management species LE = These numbers probably represent much lower estimates for Illinois than the actual numbers, based on unpublished information from the Lake Chautauqua region.

Sandpiper banded in spring in Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri was recaptured a few weeks later in northeastern Siberia. More than almost any other family of birds, the Charadriidae erase the human political boundaries between countries and continents with their long-distance migrations and habitat requirements that may encompass pampas, tundra, and prairie for a single species.

Sanderling is another species for which Illinois harbors an important population of western Great Lakes migrants. Although Sanderlings are most numerous along ocean coasts, interior populations numbering several thousand birds, move through both the Great Lakes and Great Plains. Since the highest Great Lakes counts are from Lake Michigan and western Lake Superior, Illinois is well-positioned to provide important habitat for this species. Both the Chicago area shoreline and inland stopover sites along the major rivers and reservoirs are important for this species. Beach set-asides which prohibit human and human pet incursions such as the area at Chicago's Montrose Harbor can greatly benefit this and other Lake Michigan migrants.

An important migrant shorebird in Illinois is the American Golden-Plover. Half of the world's population of this species may use Illinois during migration. The proposed estimates in Table 1 are likely low for both world and Illinois population. The conservation significance for this species in Illinois may be extremely high, perhaps one of the highest of all the shorebirds observed in the state. Shorebird concentrations may not occur every year nor even every other year in a prairie state such as Illinois.

At least 5 percent of the world's population of Pectoral Sandpipers migrate through Illinois annually.

This photo of a Pectoral Sandpiper was taken at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 23 July 2003. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

Populations of shorebirds greatly fluctuate east and west in the interior United States, dependent upon precipitation occurrence, forage availability, the presence and location of dominating weather patterns like high pressure and cold fronts on the continent, the previous year's breeding population, wintering ground conditions, and a host of other factors. If one sums the total of the breeding and migrant shorebird estimates from the table, one tallies approximately 400,000 birds. This may not be unreasonable and may even underestimate numbers considering that U.S. Geological Society researchers recently estimated between 16 and 21 million shorebirds moving northward on the Great Plains during spring migration. This estimate did not even include Illinois or Ohio, major states for shorebirds, at least during some years.

More intense surveying is being conducted this year across the Great Plains and those estimates should give us a better handle on how many shorebirds exist in North America. Intensive shorebird surveys are now underway on Arctic breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska, on wintering grounds in South and Central America and Mexico, and in the mid-continent to more accurately census migrant populations. Species-specific breeding surveys are underway for many of the small plovers, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, and Marbled Godwit. Shorebirds are finally getting some long-needed recognition by researchers, government agencies, and land managers. Readers who wish to make a case for higher or lower population estimates are welcome to forward me their reasoning. Future articles will focus on what Midwesterners can do to benefit shorebird conservation and highlight locations of major shorebird sites around the state.

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–Robert Russell,
Migratory Birds and
State Programs, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service-Region 31
Federal Drive,
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

The Status of the Whimbrel

in the Middlewestern Prairie Region

by Dan Kassebaum

History

Aside from regular movements along Lake Michigan, the Whimbrel or "Hudsonian Curlew" (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) has long been considered a rare migrant throughout the entire Middlewestern Prairie Region of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa. This region as described by *North American Birds* and its predecessors, *Bird Lore, Audubon Field Notes*, and *American Birds* also includes most of Ohio. As this report is more concerned with the movements of Whimbrels through the Mississippi River Valley of Illinois and its border states, data from Ohio have been excluded.

The status of three historically common North American species of curlew, Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), "Hudsonian Curlew" (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) and Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) has changed dramatically in Illinois since pre-settlement days. Considered a common migrant by both Nelson (1876) and Cory (1909), the Eskimo Curlew was exterminated by the unregulated hunting practices of the late 1800s, wiping out virtually the entire population, possibly beyond the point of recovery. Bohlen (1989) lists an Illinois Eskimo Curlew specimen record taken 30 March 1894, Fayette County. The Long-billed Curlew was considered an abundant migrant and common breeder in Illinois by Nelson (1876) and Kennicott (1854), but by the turn of the century, both the Eskimo and Long-billed Curlew had been virtually eliminated from the state with only four modern records for the latter species (Bohlen 1989). Cooke (1888) states the "Hudsonian Curlew" was "a common migrant in most parts of the Mississippi Valley." Elliot (1895) considered the "Hudsonian Curlew," "the least common of our curlews in the United States" but observed that many "pass through the valley of the Mississippi." The "Hudsonian Curlew" is now the only curlew one can expect to find in Illinois, although Bohlen (1989) adds, commenting on its rarity, "downstate residents might never see it."

Recent status

The breeding range of the North American population of Whimbrel is split with the western population in "northwest Alaska and adjacent MacKensie" and the eastern population "on the west side of Hudson Bay" (Hall 1960). Taverner (1942) points out that the two breeding populations of Whimbrel in North America are of the same subspecies, the "Hudsonian Curlew." Hall

Above: A Whimbrel at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Cook County. 25 July 2003. Photo by Kanae Hirabyashi.

Left: Two Whimbrels at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Cook County, feeding in the grassy area around the larger dune, north of the fishing pier. 27 July 2003. Photo by Jerry Kumery.

(1960) states, "These two groups are not racially distinct and it seems likely that the intervening territory was once occupied by another population, one which migrated down the Mississippi Valley and was snuffed out perhaps like the Eskimo Curlew." The current migration routes of the two breeding populations are considered "separate and partially transoceanic with apparently little mixing" (Skeel and Mallory 1996). The western group moves north and south along the Pacific coastline. The eastern group moves north up the coast to the mid-Atlantic states in the spring and then overland to the lower Great Lakes before going on to Hudson Bay. In the fall, these birds are said to move east from Hudson Bay to the Maritimes and then south along the coast (Hall 1960). Skeel and Mallory (1996) state that there is "no evidence of migration through the interior from the Gulf or south Atlantic states." Dinsmore et. al (1984) considered the Iowa records of Whimbrel "probably westward strays from the eastern population." Historical comments from Kennicott (1854), Cooke (1888) and Elliot (1895) suggests that the Whimbrel did indeed migrate through the Mississippi River Valley and although sparse, current data from the Middlewestern Prairie Region suggest the same.

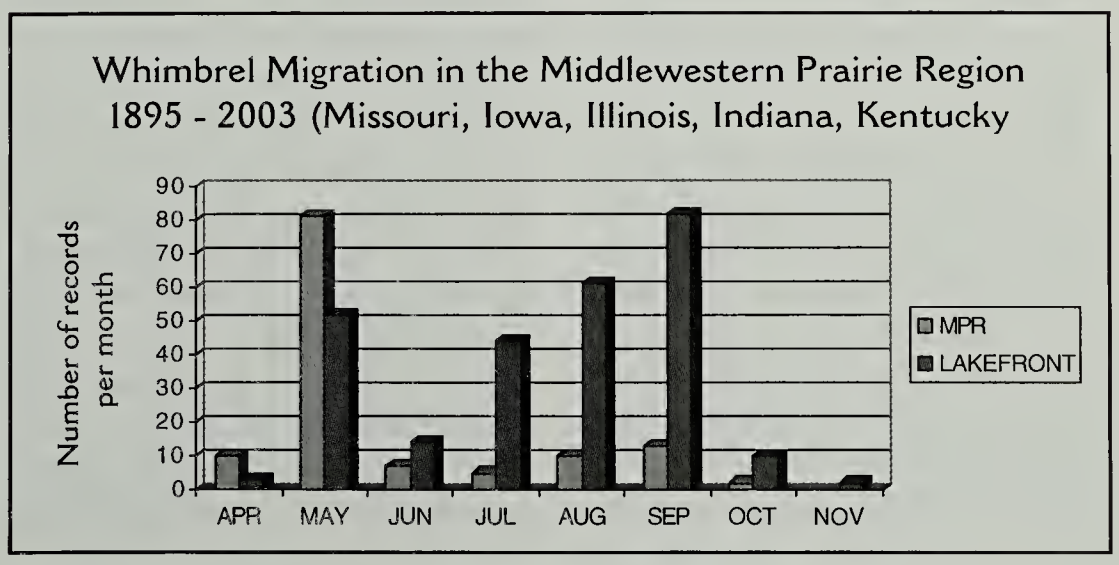
A Whimbrel at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Cook County. 25 July 2003. Photo by Kanae Hirabyashi.

Illinois and the Middlewestern Prairie Region

In support of this statement, published and unpublished records of the Whimbrel from 1895 to 2003 for the Middlewestern Prairie Region of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky have been compiled from various sources. (See bar graph). Great effort was taken to ensure that the data are accurate and as current as possible, although some data may be incomplete, especially for Lake and Cook counties in Illinois. Data for the region have been separated into two categories. MPR (Middlewestern Prairie Region) which includes all records for the region away from Lake Michigan and LAKE, which includes all records for Lake and Cook counties in Illinois and Lake, Porter and La Porte counties in Indiana.

The migration data from the Chicago area (Lake and Cook counties) are significant in that these are the most comprehensive set of notes concerning the daily migrations of birds over the last 100 years for the Middlewestern Prairie Region. The downside is that there is so much data that it becomes very difficult to gather it all. Chicago has had the luxury of an unbroken line of dedicated birders that are not only skilled in identifying birds but have taken the time to submit their notes for publication. Data from other areas within the region are far less comprehensive and suffer from great lapses as birding interest fluctuates at the local level. This differentiation is important because data from the Chicago area are likely disproportional and tend to overshadow the data from the remainder of the MPR.

Detection of a species as scarce as the Whimbrel is very much dependent on adequate coverage of potential stopover habitat. The Lake Michigan lakefront and the large cities that border it provide a very narrow strip of consistent and suitable habitat for migrating shorebirds. Heavy birding pressure and relatively easy access to the beaches make for very good and accurate coverage of the Chicago area. Monitoring the Middlewestern Prairie Region away from Lake Michigan presents a much more difficult challenge. The Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois, Wabash and Ohio Rivers provide the most consistent shorebird habitat for the greater part of the MPR, but access to all portions of these rivers is very limited.



The various agricultural and levee districts that occupy the floodplains of these rivers do everything they can to keep these areas dry and free of standing water. During wet years when conditions are suitable, you may get huge concentrations of shorebirds, with a much greater likelihood of observing a Whimbrel. Most years, conditions are dry and poor for shorebirds, and the chances of observing a Whimbrel are slim. In spite of these conditions, the spring observations of Whimbrels in the MPR from 1895 through May 2003 include, 98 records of 314 individuals, compared with the heavily birded LAKE, 65 records of 280 individuals. Although the MPR has more records than LAKE, flocks on LAKE tend to be bigger producing a greater number of individuals. It is reasonable to assume that a larger number of Whimbrels are going undetected as they move along the river systems of the MPR than those using the beaches of Lake Michigan.

Spring migration – a historical pathway?

Another piece of supportive evidence for a spring movement of Whimbrels through the Mississippi River Valley, is the distribution of records along Lake Michigan. The spring observations along the Illinois lakefront from 1902 through May 2003 include 55 records of 259 individuals, while the Indiana lakefront observations include only 10 records of 21 individuals. These disproportionate numbers suggest that many of these birds may not be entering the lake from the east, as common migration theory for this species would have it. Instead, the MPR region population probably also consists of birds moving up from the south through the Mississippi River Valley. These records may also be further evidence of a small, remnant population of Whimbrels, whose numbers may have been much larger in pre-settlement times.

During the late morning of 27 May 2000, heavy fog rolled in off Lake Michigan and downed a flock of seven Whimbrels, pictured here, at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Lake County, Illinois. They stayed for a few hours, feeding and resting, and waiting for better weather to continue their northerly journey. Photo by Eric Walters.

The distribution of records for the remainder of the MPR also suggests a southerly or Gulf Coast origin of migrants. The distribution of records in Kentucky and Missouri show this trend most clearly. Kentucky has no records for the eastern portion of the state, two in the central and fourteen in the west, at or near the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Eastern Missouri has five records all near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in St. Louis and St. Charles counties. Central Missouri has eight records, with six recorded in the Columbia area of Boone, Cole and Cooper counties and two recorded at Swan Lake NWR. At least nineteen spring records have been cited for northwest Missouri, dominated by observations from the St. Joseph area and Squaw Creek NWR. All of the Missouri records are along or within the proximity of the Missouri River. In each of these cases, a greater concentration of records in the western portion of the state argues against an eastern source for these birds. When comparing greatest with least, the number of spring Whimbrel records within the MPR presents a similar pattern. Missouri (32 records), Iowa (27 records), Illinois (18 records), Kentucky (16 records) and Indiana (5 records).

Whimbrels likely move into the region from the south via the Mississippi River and probably scatter as they reach the confluence of the major rivers. The ten records from western Kentucky, southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana seem to show a pattern of movement along the Ohio River into the Wabash River system. The few records from eastern Illinois and the remainder of Indiana are probably extensions of this movement as the birds make their way north toward Lake Michigan. It appears then, that birds that continue up the Mississippi River and past its confluence with the Ohio River tend to continue west up the Missouri River. A few may stray back to the east, either moving up the Kaskaskia River and stopping at Carlyle Lake, or northeast up the Illinois River. Either of these rivers may be the source of the scattered records for central Illinois as these birds continue on towards Lake Michigan.

The pattern of spring records for Iowa is less clear. The nine records for western Iowa in Freemont, Mills, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties follow the Missouri River and seem to be an extension of birds moving beyond Squaw Creek NWR. The eighteen spring records for central and eastern Iowa are scattered with only a single record from a county that borders the Mississippi River. Some of the birds moving into Missouri may be diverting north and scattering into central Iowa instead of going as far west as Squaw Creek NWR. The Mississippi River is the likely source of the birds moving into eastern and central Iowa, but the lack of records north of the St. Louis area is puzzling. If birds are moving up the

Four Whimbrels at Lake Carlyle. Fayette County. 27 May 2000. Photo by Al Seppi.

Mississippi River into eastern and central Iowa, at least a few scattered records should be expected along the Mississippi River as far north as Keo-kuk. Lack of observers in these areas and possibly limited access to the river bottoms is likely the problem. A similar lack of records exists for southern Missouri from St. Genevieve south along the river to Sikeston. Records of spring Whimbrels for the MPR have increased substantially over the past few decades. Totals since the turn of the century include: 1890s (1), 1930s (1), 1940s (3), 1950s (4), 1960s (14), 1970s (13), 1980s (23), 1990s (41), 2000s (30) through the summer of 2003. At this rate of growth, the current decade could produce up to eighty Whimbrel records for the MPR. Do these numbers indicate an increase in the Whimbrel migration through the Mississippi River Valley or are they evidence of increased birding activity and better record keeping? Also, as prevailing winds during spring migration are virtually always from the south or southwest, it seems highly unlikely that the birds that are sighted in the MPR at this season are wind-blown vagrants from birds moving up the Atlantic Coast.

Spring Whimbrel migration through the MPR extends from April into June with an early arrival date of April 12 and late date of June 10. A breakdown of records for the spring movement reveals: April (10 records), May (81 records), June (7 records). The greatest concentration of birds occurs from May 15 through May 27. Multiple birds are often encountered with a record high-count of 17. The spring of 2000 produced a wave of birds moving through western Kentucky and southern Illinois, which should alert birders to pay special attention to their own shorebird areas when the reports of Whimbrels begin to occur. Over a three-day period as many as 14 birds were encountered in five observations between Smith-land Dam (on the Illinois/ Indiana border) and Kentucky Lake. Interestingly, the Illinois sightings preceded the Kentucky sightings. On the last day of these observations, 15 additional birds were recorded in central Kentucky. Ten days later 15 Whimbrels were recorded in central Indiana and a group of four were recorded at Carlyle Lake, Illinois.

Much like Willets and godwits, when encountered, Whimbrels rarely linger. Only three of the 98 spring records for Whimbrel in the MPR have occurred over multiple days. Surprisingly, marginal shorebird habitat often is sufficient to attract Whimbrels. On each of the three spring encounters at Carlyle Lake, the water was so deep that the birds were forced to roost upon inundated logs and stumps. During the fall when conditions are typically dry at Carlyle, Whimbrels have been observed feeding on caterpillars while running along the berms and skulking through the Smartweed (*Polygonum sp.*) and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) like a rail.

Fall migration

Fall migration within most of the MPR is far less spectacular and the region is heavily dominated by records along Lake Michigan. Most interesting is the almost complete reversal of the distribution of records within the MPR compared with spring: Missouri (5 records), Iowa (6 records), Illinois (16 records), Indiana (5 records) and Kentucky (0 records). Records along Lake Michigan are substantial: Illinois (134 records) and Indiana (71 records).The 11 fall records for Iowa and Missouri are spread over a wide range of dates (June 26 to October 21) and likely represent both adults (the late June and early July records), and juveniles, the later records. These records may be considered vagrants or simply birds that when moving southeast from western Hudson Bay to the Great Lakes passed west of Lake Superior. The 11 records for downstate Illinois in fall tend to contradict the seasonal pattern of migration as established by Iowa and Missouri. Based on published records, birders in downstate Illinois are just as likely to observe a Whimbrel in the fall as in the spring. Movements into Illinois during the fall could reasonably be from two sources. Presumably, some of the movement into Illinois can be attributed to birds moving southeast out of Iowa and Missouri and into the Mississippi River Valley. The other source of movement into downstate Illinois could simply be birds pushing south off of Lake Michigan and into the Mississippi River Valley rather than east out and onto the Atlantic seaboard. Considering that 11 of the 16 fall records for Whimbrel in the state (away from Lake Michigan) are concentrated in southern Illinois, it seems likely that

western Kentucky will begin to record similar movements as well.

Summary

Additional data from states to the west, like Kansas and Nebraska, would be helpful in proving that a significant number of Whimbrels are moving north from the Gulf Coast each spring and up the Mississippi River Valley. If the data from these states should prove to be greater in volume than that of Missouri and Iowa, a southern or Gulf Coast source of birds is likely the case. It would be very difficult to argue that birds originating from the East Coast could show up in greater concentrations as you move west away from the presumed source. If the data from Kansas and Nebraska prove to be less than that of Missouri and Iowa, an east-coast source of these birds seems reasonable.

Skeel and Mallory (1996) appear to ignore all records of Whimbrel from the eastern Great Lakes, or all of the MPR records, which this paper discusses. At the most, such records are apparently considered vagrants. This paper shows a regular passage (albeit in small numbers) of Whimbrels through the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Dates of migration through Illinois and the MPR also correspond very well with dates of departure from spring staging areas along the Gulf Coast (see Skeel and Mallory 1996). One hypothesis contradicts Skeel and Mallory's (1996) statement of "no evidence of migration through interior (in spring) from Gulf." In fall, some Whimbrels likely make a 4,000-kilometer nonstop Atlantic flight from southern Canada to South America. Likewise, some Whimbrels may be taking a more direct nonstop spring flight from the Gulf Coast to their Hudson Bay breeding areas via the Mississippi River Valley, and may occasionally be brought down into the region by storms. The fact that they have acquired the needed food reserves on their Gulf Coast staging area would explain the Whimbrel's brief stops (often a day or less) in the Middlewestern Prairie Region. Today's numbers could be the rebuilding of the much larger historic numbers that may have passed through the region with the other two curlew species and species such as the American Golden-Plover.

Observations of Whimbrels are occurring within the Middlewestern Prairie Region as never before. The ultra-rare status attributed to this species away from Lake Michigan may need to be re-evaluated. Whether the source of the spring migration is exclusively from the middle-Atlantic coast or at least partially through the Gulf Coast, MPR birders away from Lake Michigan can now expect to see an occasional Whimbrel. This paper demonstrates that a reasonable pattern is emerging as to where and especially when Whimbrels are most likely to occur, especially in Illinois.

Acknowledgments

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– Dan Kassebaum
308 E B Street
Belleville, IL 62220
kdan@itc.net

Piping Plover Recovery in the Great Lakes:
2003 Nesting Season On Track to Match Big Brood Success of 2002

by Christine Williamson

Although the likelihood that Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) would nest in Illinois or Indiana is low now, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service hopes that an avian variation of "If you build it, they will come" will someday bring this species back as a breeder in Illinois.

The USFWS recently designated 201 miles of shoreline in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York as critical to the continued survival of the Great Lakes population of Piping Plovers. Critical habitat also was designated within the Piping Plover's wintering grounds. The designation requires that federal beaches be protected from disturbance, and encourages private landowners to do the same.

Piping Plover, banded juvenile, 18 August 2003. Montrose Harbor. The photographer retrieved information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicating this bird was banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on North Manitou Island in Michigan. Photo by Robert Hughes.

The Piping Plover was listed as an endangered species in the Great Lakes watershed in 1985, and is threatened throughout the rest of its breeding range (on the Atlantic seaboard and on the Northern Great Plains). The Piping Plover winters on beaches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Piping Plover numbers declined primarily because of habitat loss from development and human pressure. The species was in trouble even in 1895, when Frank M. Chapman noted in "Birds of Eastern North America": As a breeding bird it is now rare, and man's increasing encroachment on its haunts threatens it with extinction as a summer resident…

Recovery plan

The Great Lakes and Northern Great Plains Piping Plover Recovery Plan (USFWS 1988b), establishes a recovery goal of 150 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes watershed – at least 100 in Michigan and at least 50 in other Great Lakes states – with stable populations for 15 years. As the mid-continent population increases, young birds will need to find their own territories for breeding and the USFWS is planning ahead with protection of suitable habitat.

Piping Plovers never were numerous in the Great Lakes region, with pre-settlement estimates of the Great Lakes population between 492 and 682 breeding pairs. The lowest recent population figure was 17 pairs in the whole Great Lakes region. Piping Plovers last nested in Illinois near Waukegan in 1979.

Just 32 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes Region were found in 2001, although that year had the first nesting pair on the Wisconsin mainland in 52 years, according to Laura Reagan, a biologist based at the USFWS's Fort Snelling, Minn. office.

In 2002, the Great Lakes Piping Plover population leaped to 51 pairs. "That's a very big jump. In most years, we've seen our population only inching up," said Jack Dingledine, the USFWS's Great Lakes regional Piping Plover coordinator, based in East Lansing, Mich.

Dingledine said the comparatively high number of breeding Piping Plovers in 2002 in the region was due to a host of factors, although the primary drivers were very high reproductive success rates in 2001, combined with better protections and public awareness. There are just more Piping Plovers around, looking for undisturbed beaches. Biologists who track Piping Plovers noted that in 2002, pairs nested farther south on Lake Michigan beaches in Michigan than in prior years, including one pair near Luddington, and that they were

present at two new sites in Ohio along Lake Huron.

At the time of this writing, 2003 was shaping up to match the success rate of the prior year, with 45 nesting pairs accounted for so far, Dingledine said. There are still a few remote islands in the Great Lakes that need to be checked for nesting plovers. An additional pair nested the summer of 2003 near Luddington. Dingledine added that the weather the spring of 2003 has been very conducive to reproductive success for the plovers. "While it was a cool spring, the season lacked the extremes of temperature and weather that are detrimental to nesting and rearing young Piping Plovers," Dingledine said.

Critical habitat

Critical habitat designation for Piping Plovers at Illinois Beach State Park and Indiana Dunes essentially creates expansion room for young Piping Plovers, but there is no sure-fire way to attract breeding pairs to a given area, other than maintaining appropriate habitat and controlling disturbance, Dingledine said.

The USFWS noted in its filing in the Federal Register, May 7, 2001, that the "primary constituent elements required to sustain the Great Lakes breeding population of the Piping Plover are found on Great Lakes islands and mainland shoreline that support open, sparsely vegetated sandy habitats, such as sand spits or sand beaches, that are associated with wide, unforested systems of dunes and inter-dune wetlands. In order for habitat to be physically and biologically suitable for Piping Plovers, it must have a total shoreline length of at least 0.2 km (0.12 mi) of gently sloping, sparsely vegetated (less than 50 percent herbaceous and low woody cover) sand beach with a total beach area of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) and a low level of disturbance from human activities and domestic animals."

The critical habitat designation was given to currently unoccupied areas that historical records show were once used by breeding plovers and to areas lacking historical breeding occurrences that have most of the primary constituent elements listed above. The USFWS revised its Piping Plover Recovery Plan to include all of the currently unoccupied sites as critical habitat in response to public comments.

In Illinois, just one area was designated as critical habitat for the Piping Plover. About six miles of Lake Michigan shoreline stretching from 17th Street in Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP) and Nature Preserve south to the northern breakwater in Waukegan Harbor in Lake County were designated as critical for the plover. Some of the six miles of beach is already off-limits to park visitors in order to protect the fragile dune habitat for other endangered species, such as the Karner Blue Butterfly.

Ironically, the chance discovery of asbestos in the southern portion of IBSP, both at the shoreline and at inland spots within the park's nature preserve area in 2003 means that even biologists and birders with access permits to conduct bird surveys aren't getting in, leaving the site even less disturbed. Even Joel Greenberg, the official Piping Plover monitor for Illinois, hasn't been able to get onto the beach at the south end of IBSP to check whether any of these small, subtle, sand-colored shorebirds have stopped to refuel and rest during the summer of 2003.

Nearly five miles of shoreline in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park in Porter County were also designated, stretching from the Port of Indiana eastward to Kemil Road in Beverly Shores. Twenty-three areas in Michigan and six areas in Wisconsin also received the critical habitat designation.

The critical habitat designation only limits destructive federal activities on federally owned lands, although states that receive federal money for some conservation activities are also bound by the designation, said Reagan of USFWS. State and privately owned lands are not regulated by the critical habitat designation, but biologists said such designation often persuades land owners to behave responsibly to limit disturbance of nesting birds.

Approved Habitat Conservation Plans were excluded from critical habitat by the Fish & Wildlife Service on the grounds that landowners already provide adequate protection and will consult with USFWS about changes to habitat management practices. Magic Carpet Woods Association in Leelanau County, Mich., has developed a habitat management plan that protects Piping Plovers nesting near this private development. This is the only approved Habitat Conservation Plan for Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes Region. The USFWS will work with landowners to develop more HCPs within the Great Lakes breeding area.

Highly sensitive

The Piping Plover forages on small insects and invertebrates at the water's edge and nest in pebbled areas within the grassy fore dunes of fresh and salt water beaches. The birds are very sensitive to disturbance from humans and dogs and will abandon their well-camouflaged nest or chicks if stressed. The nest – a shallow scrape in the sand – is very hard to spot, and eggs are often inadvertently crushed under foot, by pets and by vehicles.

USFWS also noted in its Federal Register filing that Piping Plovers' intolerance for disturbance increas-

es as the nesting season progresses, necessitating strict controls during the nest selection period, laying and incubation on activities such as walking pets off leash, loud noise, off-road vehicle use or significantly increased human activity near the nest.

Most Great Lakes beaches are subject to intense recreational use, subjecting Piping Plovers to unacceptable stress levels. Human presence and attendant trash from picnics also attracts predators, such as raccoons, skunks, fox, gulls and opossums, which readily raid nests for eggs. The young are precocial, meaning that they can run and feed themselves within a few hours of hatching, but these tiny fluff balls are very vulnerable to predation until they can fly.

"Virtually every nest has to be baby-sitted to keep humans and dogs away. These are the key factors of disturbance to nesting plovers. If we can keep people and dogs away from the nest during incubation, it really increases the chance of success," said Mike DeCapita, wildlife biologist, who is based at the USFWS office in Lansing, Mich.

"But we don't have an effective way to keep predators at bay once the babies are hatched. They have so many predators – fox, coyote, raccoon – which would we try to defend them from? It's very rare that we know what happens to a chick when it disappears. We can't protect them once they start moving," DeCapita said. Biologists know exactly how many adults and babies they start out with within the Great Lakes population each year, DeCapita said. Adults are trapped on the nest with a special device and banded. Eggs are carefully counted and monitored. Chicks are caught with a net and banded when they are about two weeks old.

Because Piping Plover nests are so carefully monitored, biologists are able to retrieve eggs that hatch later than other siblings in a brood. Quite often, three of four eggs will hatch together and once the young are mobile, the parents have to take off after them, abandoning the last egg. Biologists hatch the egg and raise the young in captivity, band it and release the offspring, with good success. In fact, said DeCapita, one of the pair of Piping Plovers nesting near Green Bay was a captive-raised bird.

Piping Plover, 24 June 2003. Popham Beach State Park, Phippsburg, Maine. Photo by Geoffrey Williamson.

The Piping Plover Recovery Plan is being updated now to incorporate new scientific data and to split the Great Lakes and Northern Plains populations for the purpose of management for species recovery, said Reagan of the Fort Snelling office of USFWS. A final version of the Great Lakes Plan is expected in fiscal year 2003. The Recovery Plan essentially sets goals, delineates habitat that should be protected and suggests guidelines for habitat management and monitoring and surveying work, she said.

The Illinois birder's chances of seeing a nesting Piping Plover in the state are slim to none, unless you conduct shorebird monitoring. Beaches where they nest will be closed until after the young are independent – in mid July or so. Hopefully, even more beach closures will be necessary soon across the region.

Migratory stopovers

However, in response to public comments, the USFWS did improve a birder's chance of seeing a migrant Piping Plover by designating as critical habitat beaches used in migration, but that are not suitable for nesting. The USFWS said that "areas used by plovers on migratory routes are likely very important for survival to the next breeding season. Extraordinarily little is known, however, about important stop-over sites and habitat needs of the Piping Plover during migration. Because so little is known about where essential migratory spots are located, we did not designate migratory habitat in this rule."

According to a May 2001 filing in the Federal Register, the USFWS will add important migration spots to the critical habitat designation as they are discovered. Education is the single most important element in the continued survival of the Piping Plover. The more people understand and appreciate the Piping Plover, the more likely they will be to stay off protected beaches and to keep their children and dogs from disturbing migrating, roosting and nesting plovers.

Plover ambassadors educate the public about Piping Plovers in some Michigan towns lucky enough to host nesting birds. Harmful human-bird interactions are down as a result and the population numbers are rising.

Citizen scientists, like Al Stokie, who monitors shorebirds on Illinois' northernmost Lake Michigan beaches, contribute to the body of knowledge about Piping Plover migration patterns. In fact, DeCapita of USFWS said the missing link in the puzzle of the Great Lakes' Piping Plovers is where exactly they winter. "We need more observations and data on where our birds go. It is a huge coastline – from North Carolina around to

Texas – with too few people to survey and record their movements," DeCapita said.

General information about the Piping Plover critical habitat program and a copy of the Federal Register filing are available on the USFWS web site at http://midwest.fws.gov.endangered/piping-plover.

– Christine Williamson
4046 N. Clark St., Unit K
Chicago, IL 60612
birdchris@aol.com

Editor's Note: In this article, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative states that there is no sure fire way to attract breeding pairs of Piping Plovers to a given area. However, unpublished data show that the Forster's Tern, a rare breeding species in Illinois, can be enticed to nest by playing conspecific attraction calls. An article on this "new"technique will be forthcoming in Meadowlark. This technique has also been shown to attract passerines in Illinois and elsewhere including the federally endangered Black-capped Vireo in Texas (in press Ward and Schlossberg). Piping Plovers would be a good candidate for this type of attraction.

Guest Essay

Lake Chautauqua and Counting Shorebirds

by Steven D. Bailey

With the advent of Illinois' Important Bird Areas program (nominations are due at the end of September), this would be a good time to recognize the fact that the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network has designated Lake Chautauqua as a regionally significant site that provides critical habitat for shorebird species of international concern. Within the last few years, management of the lower pool of Lake Chautauqua has put more emphasis on maintaining habitat for shorebird than it has historically (pers. comm. Ross Adams). Unfortunately, problems with high Illinois River levels causing repeated breaching of levees, as well as outbreaks of avian botulism, have made it difficult to manage the south pool for optimum shorebird usage. Another problem this situation has created is that much surface area in the pool has now become inundated with five-to-ten-year-old willow growth. This situation has made it difficult for the few systematic censuses that are done by such folks as Sigurd and Richard Bjorklund to accurately estimate the true numbers of birds present, due to reduced visibility.

Notwithstanding all of these things, the Lake Chautauqua region continues to host anywhere from 100,000 to 250,000 shorebirds each fall. It is not uncommon to have greater than 10,000 shorebirds present on a given day, between mid-July and late September. Problems involved with estimating or otherwise properly counting these birds include the shorebirds being extremely far away from viewing access points as well as wetland vegetation obscuring large numbers of birds, which often only become apparent with the passage of raptors such as Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

Then, too, birders are looking for rarities here, and often forget to count the common species for which Lake Chautauqua may become even more important as a stopover site. The commonest species that use the area include both yellowlegs, Pectoral and Least Sandpipers, and to a lesser extent, Semipalmated Sandpiper, dowitchers, and Solitary Sandpiper – species that may greatly rely on the Lake Chautauqua region as an important stopover area during migration (see the first article in this issue on shorebird estimates). Most of these species are often ignored by birders reporting totals for publication in Meadowlark and North American Birds, and so the true importance of this refuge has not yet been revealed. Those who most frequently bird the Lake Chautauqua region have generally agreed that there are peak days during shorebird migration there, where more than 100,000 birds or more may be present on a single day. Greater than 90 percent of these are often Pectoral Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs, and to a lesser extent, Least Sandpipers.

Often, shorebirds on a national scale are only thought of as coastal organisms; however, refuges like Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivera in the Great Plains are well-known for attracting huge numbers of shorebirds. Lake Chautauqua easily has the potential, with proper management and interest, to attain the high status of the other Midwestern shorebird stopover sites.

Although everyone enjoys the rarities to be found in such crowds of shorebirds, it is more important to provide habitat for the species whose populations in Illinois are most critical during their migration to and from their breeding grounds.

– Steven D. Bailey is Associate Editor of Meadowlark and an Ornithologist for the Critical Trends Assessment Program with the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The Ninth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by Douglas F. Stotz and David B. Johnson

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC, or the Committee) are reported here for a total of 77 records, including 63 accepted records of 44 species plus a hybrid, and 14 unaccepted records of 14 species. A total of 62 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current committee from 2000 though 2003, plus some earlier records that earlier incarnations of the committee evaluated, but never published, including many historical records prior to 1985. The Committee is examining the archives of IORC to bring the publications of the Committee up-to-date. We will publish early records that the committee has already evaluated without further evaluation by the committee. Records that have been assigned an IORC reference number, but have not been evaluated previously by the committee, will be evaluated by the current committee. We anticipate being current with the historical records within two to three years.

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through eighth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000; Stotz 2001; Stotz and Johnson 2002). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into Review List Records, and Other Records. The sequence of species conforms to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist (1998) and its supplements, through the 44th (Banks et al. 2003).

An accepted record is entered with the locality (including the standard abbreviation for the county), the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four characters of which give the year of the first observation), and the initials of the primary observer(s) who contributed specimens, descriptions, and/or photographs. Similar information is provided for unaccepted records, except the observers remain anonymous, and a brief explanation of why the record was not accepted is given. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (*); when the photographic evidence is known to be a videotape, a "v" is appended (*v);*p, v indicates both photographic and video evidence presented by same contributor. Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions, a practice the Committee encourages. If the observer(s) who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, their initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. Initial observers who did not submit documentations are not always listed. For specimen records, a sharp (#) follows an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalogue number of the specimen.

We have made an attempt to reference published photographs and brief accounts (such as articles published in the *Meadowlark*) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. If a photograph was published in *North American Birds*, or the *Meadowlark*, an attempt has been made to reference the publication of those photographs. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

Several records that were seen by several to many observers were documented by only one or two of these observers. The committee would like to encourage all observers to document all the review list species they see. Documentation by multiple observers can provide additional evidence and support for the identity of rarities. Often unaccepted records suffer from incomplete information, a problem which additional documentation by other observers could help overcome.

Information on the age and sex of the birds reported may be an opinion of the person(s) submitting the evidence and is not necessarily an accepted position of the Committee. All other remarks are the authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee files, which are now stored in Chicago, Illinois, in the Bird Division of the Field Museum.

In several cases there are discrepancies between the details presented here vs. other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this

report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. We have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here, but we have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. The Committee accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to our attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

Abbreviations: References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds* and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, and NAB, respectively, followed by volume and page numbers. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters. County abbreviations largely follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton and Clyne (1998).

"Northern", "central", and "southern Illinois" refer to specific subsections of the state as first defined by Gault (1922); see also Bohlen (1978). The terms "region" and "regional" apply to the Middlewestern Prairie Region as used in FN and NAB and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

Documentors: Richard Anderson, Lawrence Balch (LBa), Frank Bennett, Nancy Bent, Laurence Binford (LBi), Richard Biss, H. D. Bohlen, Paul Bauer, Brian Chandler, Robert Chapel, Charles Clark, Paul Clyne, Joan Dowler, Robert Fisher, Urs Geiser, Glenn Giacinto, Eric Goldman, Leroy Harrison, Ann Haverstock, Brian Herriott, Scott Hickman, Margaret Horsman, Robert Hughes, Cathy Hutcheson, David B. Johnson, George and Rosaline Johnson, David Jones (DJs), Dan Kassebaum, Vernon Kleen, Jerry Kumery, Greg Lambeth, John Leonard, Travis Mahan (TMh), Tom Marquardt (TMr), Carolyn Marsh, Jeff McCoy, Keith McMullen, Steve Mlodinow, Joanne Mueller, James Neal, Bruce Peterjohn, Lee Ramsey, Robert Randall, Michael Retter, Charlene Robinson, Bruce Rowland, William Rudden, Dan Scheiman, Eric Secker, Wes Serafin, Jonathan Simms, Phoebe Snetsinger, Larry Sowers, Jim Sullivan, Robert Timm, Ken Vail, Jenny Vogt, Patrick Ward (PWr), Peter Weber (PWb), Dave Willard, Geoff Williamson, Ken Wysocki .

Membership: Current members of the IORC are: Steven D. Bailey, Paul Clyne, Robert Hughes, David B. Johnson (Vice-Secretary), Dan Kassebaum, Keith McMullen, and Douglas Stotz (Secretary). Alternates on the Committee are: Richard Biss, Robert E. Fisher, Joe B. Milosevich, and David Willard.

Review List: The Review List includes species for which the committee will review all records or all records outside of some determined range within the state. These are species that, in general, average two or fewer records per year in the state, or which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The current review list was approved at the 18 January 2003 committee meeting. IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed on the review list on the IOS/ IORC website: http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html. In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds (IORC 1999) should be documented. Documentation of regular species may be appropriate when they occur out of season—i.e., exceptionally early arrival dates or late departure dates for migratory species. All first state nesting records should also be documented. Exceptionally high counts of species may also merit documentation. These documentations should generally be sent to the seasonal editor of the Field Notes in the Meadowlark.

Acknowledgments: This report is made possible by the thoughtful, careful, and timely review by all Committee members both past and current, and by the support of Illinois birders and institutions which contributed evidence of Illinois birds by specimens, documentations, photographs, and/or videotapes.

ACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Accepted (57 records of 42 species)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) One shot at Highland Silver Lake MAD on 2 Nov (2001.061; EG). The committee examined photos of the bird before mounting as well as the taxidermied mount of this extraordinary bird. There was no evidence of wear on the plumage, bill or toenails, as might be expected in captivity. The species is increasing dramatically in Florida, and with that increase, vagrant records in the eastern US are on the increase as well. This is the first accepted record for Illinois.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) R. M. Barnes collected a female at Lacon MAR on 1 Dec (1917.002, FMNH # 96677) and an undated male also from Lacon MAR (1917.001, FMNH # 96676). These represent the most recent specimens of the original population of Trumpeter Swan in Illinois. Currently, there are annual reports of Trumpeter swans as migrants and wintering birds from the reintroductions north of Illinois. At this point, the committee considers these populations to be unestablished, so these records are treated as exotics.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) A pair at Carlyle Lake CLI on 21 Apr (2002.040; DK*). Male Cinnamon Teal no longer is reviewed by the committee. However, the female of this pair is the first documented record of a female Cinnamon Teal in Illinois. Details of this observation, including photographs, are provided by Kassebaum (2002).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) A male at East Fork Lake RIC on 1 Nov (2002.018; LH). This bird appears to have been an adult male

that had not completely molted out of eclipse plumage.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) A male in ADA on 12 Jan (2002.003; KV*). This species remains quite unusual away from Lake Michigan. See MJIB 11:113.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) A male at Chain-of-Rocks MAD on 8 Jan (1977.002: JE, DJs).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) W. I. Lyon collected a specimen at Waukegan LAK on 16 Nov (1936.001; CAS #9067); one at Lake Springfield, SAN from 6 Dec (2000.061; DO*) to 21 January 2001.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica)* One in basic plumage at Illinois Beach SP on 23 Nov (2001.063; AS); one at Rend Lake, FRA during the Rend Lake CBC on 14 Dec (2002.039; LH; DK*). This species has been removed from the Review list. It is currently being reported annually in the fall along the Lake Michigan lakefront and at large downstate lakes.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) An adult and subadult at Lake Carlyle CLI. The adult was present 27 Jul-5 Oct, and the subadult 17 Aug-7 Oct (2002.017; DK*; TMh).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) one adult near Fountain MON on 5-6 May (1978.005; WR, RA).

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) An imm. at West Dundee KAN on 19 Aug (2001.036; G&RJ*v); one imm. in Lombard DUP on 5-25 Aug (2001.037; JM, specimen FMNH #430571). For details of the DuPage County bird, and a photograph, see Bent and Woltman (2002). Montogomery (2002) reported the Kane County bird and provided a good summary of Illinois records. After a period of more than two decades without records of Wood Storks in Illinois, their numbers here appear to be on the increase, with six accepted records since 1989 (Montgomery 2002).

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) One near LaSalle Lake LAS on 4-30 January (2003.001; GL*, JK*, WS).

Ruff (adult female, also called Reeve) at Carlyle Lake, 18 August 2002. Photo by Dan Kassebuam.

Throughout the month of January, a parade of birders observed a chocolate-brown immature Gyrfalcon in the vicinity of the LaSalle Nuclear Generating Plant. Several observers thought that they may have observed a second grayer bird in the area as well. The digital photo, referenced above as taken by Jerry Kumery, may have been of this second bird, different from the bird photographed by Greg Lambeth. However, the committee in reviewing the photos did not feel that they could be certain that these were not photos of the same individual. Given that as far as the committee is aware, no observer saw two Gyrfalcons at the same time; in the absence of clear documentation of a second bird, we consider there to have been only a single Gyrfalcon present in January 2003. The committee welcomes additional data from observers on this point.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) A specimen (CAS # 15124) Highland Park LAK on 29 Mar (1905.001) collected by Elmer Evans. Coale (1912) indicates that three specimens were taken at this time, but only the specimen listed above appears to remain in museum collections.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) One found dead at McCormick Place, Chicago COO on 19 May (1984.024; RT, specimen, FMNH #316952); one found dead at McCormick Place, Chicago COO on 31 May (1989.106; DW, specimen, FMNH #350613); one found dead at McCormick Place, Chicago COO on 8 Oct (1993.078; DW, specimen, FMNH #362610). Although a small number of specimens, three window kills at McCormick Place remains striking given the almost complete lack of recent records of this species, recorded in life, in Illinois or indeed the upper Midwest. It seems clear that a remnant breeding population must exist somewhere in the upper Midwest.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) An adult female specimen (ISU#180) obtained by Mrs. Wayne Patkunas at Hudson McL on 13 Apr (1964.001); an adult at L. Mermet MSS on 1 Sep (2002.019; FB). The McLean County bird was found alive in a backyard and then was taken to a local zoo where it died (*fide* A. Capparella). This species appears to be regular in summer at Lake Mermet in very small numbers. It remains casual elsewhere in the state.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) One basic-plumaged at Waukegan LAK on 23 Feb-2 Mar (2002.002; DBJ). A Purple Sandpiper was also seen on 8 Dec 2001 at this site. The observer believes that bird to have been different from this accepted record. However, the December 2001 bird was not documented.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) One adult female at Carlyle Lake CLI on 17-19 Aug (2002.020; DK*). See photo.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One adult at Gillson Park, Wilmette COO on 10 Nov (1951.002; LBi).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) One juvenile at Carlyle Lake CLI on 7 Sep (2002.021; DK). This is the fifth accepted record of Long-tailed Jaeger in Illinois, all juveniles and all since 1999. Four of these came from Carlyle Lake, and one from Lake Chautauqua (Bailey

2001, Kassebaum 2001, Stotz 2001, Stotz and Johnson 2002). The lack of Lake Michigan records in Illinois is surprising, as the species is regularly reported in very small numbers from the Indiana Lake Michigan shoreline.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) One adult at Great Lakes Naval Training Center LAK on 13 June (2002.022; DBJ). This is the third accepted record of this species in Illinois during the summer.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) One at Joppa MSS on 4 Oct (2002.024; FB). This is the first record of this species in Illinois. The tern immediately appeared following the passage of Hurricane Lili, which moved up the Mississippi Valley after making landfall the previous day. Other Sooty Terns were found on the same day in Tennessee and Kentucky (Brinkley and Lehman 2003). See an article in the next issue by Frank K. Bennett with sketches.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) One at Lincoln Park, Chicago COO on 28 May (2002.007; JL*, WS). Sixth record for a dove that is being recorded with more frequency recently in the state.

Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis)* An old specimen from UNI, May (1857.001, CAS # 3095) collected by Robert Kennicott, founder of the Chicago Academy of Science. Although many early naturalists reported this extinct species in Illinois, this specimen represents one of only four specimens collected in the state. There is some doubt as to the date and locality of this specimen. Bohlen (1989) suggests that the specimen may be from 1855, and that the locality may be Union, McHenry Co. The Chicago Academy of Sciences tag on the specimen clearly states Union County and 1857; however, it was added much after the fact, and we are continuing to look for independent evidence confirming the date and locality of this specimen.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) One at Lanesville SAN on 2 Mar (1976.002; VK*).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) One nw of Ellsworth McL on 12-15 Apr (1978.013; TMr ; VK*).

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) A female was at a feeder in Springfield SAN on 16-21 Nov (2000.063; DO*); one adult female captured and banded at a feeder in Mount Vernon, JEF on 14 Nov (2002.025; CH); an adult male at a feeder in Pinckneyville PER was present late October to 25 Dec (2002.034; BC*).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya)* One at Evanston COO on 23 Sep (1978.013; RB*).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) One at Montrose Point, Chicago COO on 10 Nov (2002.030; RH). This is the third record for Illinois.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) One at Siloam Springs SP, ADA on 12 June (2002.038; KM). Siloam Springs remains the only known breeding site for this species in Illinois. The Committee requests documentation of records from this site, as well as any other records, to assist in the continued monitoring of the status of this species that is disappearing from Illinois.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) One at Horseshoe Lake MAD on 11-19 Oct (1978.014; PS, WR, PB*).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) C. H. Douglas collected one of the two Illinois specimens (Bohlen 1989) at Waukegan LAK on 16 Dec (1875.002; CAS # 16235).

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*) One sw of Jacksonville MOR on 22 Apr (1972.008; HDB).

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) One female at Morton Arboretum DUP on 8 Dec (2002.032; ES; JM*, JK*, RF, UG, AH, BH, DBJ, JL, CM, BR, DS, JV, PWb, SB) to 2 Feb 2003. A remarkable first confirmed state record, a black and white photo appears in 103rd Christmas Bird Count Issue, AB: 82. This was a first Illinois wintering record for the species and a new addition to the Illinois Christmas Bird Count species list. See the next issue of *Meadowlark* for an article and photos regarding this rarity.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) One at Montrose Point, Chicago COO on 12 Oct (2002.031; GG; RH, GW).

The first state record of Hermit Warbler was recorded at Morton Arboretum, Du Page County. 9 December 2002. Photo by Jerry Kumery. An article on this species in Illinois is scheduled for Meadowlark, Vol 12 No. 3.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii)* A male collected by B. T. Gault at Glen Ellyn DUP on 7 May (1894.001; CAS #17308) is one of three specimens from Illinois. All were collected during the 1890s.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) A female found dead at Chicago COO on 12 May (2002.008; KW specimen FMNH #434304). This is the first specimen for the state. Most records of Western Tanager in Illinois have been found during May.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) One photographed at Shirland, WIN at the Sugar River FP on 3-4 May (1959.001). The photographs were published in Morse (1960).

A young male Lazuli Bunting was seen at a feeder in Winchester, Illinois, 24-26 June 2002. Photo by Charlene Robinson.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) One collected by W. I. Lyon at Waukegan LAK on 28 Nov (1935.001; CAS #8175).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) A male at a feeder in Pecatonica WIN on 12-17 Jan (1965.001; JS*); an immature male at a feeder in Carbondale JAC from mid-Feb to 23 Mar (1972.004; VK*); a male at Carpenter Park, Springfield SAN on 24 Nov (1973.005; HDB); a male at a feeder in Salem MAR on 29 Jan-24 Mar (1976.001, MH; BP*); a male at a feeder in Des Plaines COO on 4-8 Jan (1978.011; MC; DBJ*); a male at Waterfall Glen FP, DUP on 8 May (2002.013; RF). The Jackson County and Winnebago County records are reported in Kleen (1972), where a photo of the Jackson County bird was published.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) One young male at a feeder at Winchester SCO on 24-26 June (2002.015; CR* p,v). This is only the third accepted record of this western species in Illinois. See photo, left.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) One female at Urbana CHA on 28 May (2001.062; RC); birds photographed at E. St. Louis STC was present 7 May - 3 Aug (2002.014; DK*) At least two males were present, as was a female, but the female was not documented. A male was at a feeder in ca. 5 miles w. of Hidalgo, nw JAS on 4-15 Jan (2003.003; LS*). The St. Clair County birds were at the same site where nesting was documented in 1999, and where the species has been recorded annually since then in the summer. This species continues to spread in Illinois, but the winter record in Newton County was extraordinarily out-of-season.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) An adult female at a sewage treatment plant in Jacksonville MOR on 5-7 Oct (1974.003; HDB specimen ISM#605929, RRa*, VK, LBa, CC, PWr). This constituted the first record of this expanding species for Illinois. Two brief papers reported this record (Randall 1975, Bohlen 1976). The specimen was determined (Bohlen 1976) to belong to the geographically closest subspecies *prosopidicola*. This species continues to expand its range northward and eastward. It probably remains under-reported in Illinois.

OTHER ACCEPTED RECORDS — (6 records of 2 species, plus a hybrid)

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) One at Waukegan LAK on 23-25 Nov (1972.006; LBa*); one at Lake Chautauqua on 18 Nov (1972.007; LBa*); one at Waukegan LAK on 25-28 Nov (1978.015; JN*, LBa*); one at Montrose, Chicago COO on 24-26 Nov (1978.016; DBJ*, SM).

Laughing X Ring-billed Gull (*Larus atricilla* x *delawarensis*) One at Montrose Beach, Chicago COO on 2 Aug (1995.069; RH*).

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis) A Gray-headed Junco (race *caniceps*) was west of Springfield SAN on 12 Dec (2000.062; HDB, DO*). The committee remains interested in documentation of Dark-eyed Junco forms other than the more common Slate-colored and regular Oregon.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS —Review List Records Unaccepted (13 records of 13 species)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) One reportedly killed by a hunter at LaSalle LAS on 15 Sep (1930.001; Moyer 1931). The committee voted not to accept this record because there is no trace of the specimen, so the identification cannot be checked and because even if correctly identified, the question of origin cannot be evaluated. The report by Moyer is not detailed, and it is unclear whether he actually saw the specimen, or whether the report was entirely secondhand. Moyer also mentions a Fulvous Whistling-Duck, also shot by a hunter on 7 December 1919. Because the Fulvous Whistling-Duck report is certainly secondhand, the committee has not evaluated it.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) four birds were reported from Jackson Park, Chicago COO on 20 Feb (1980.012). The report consisted of two males and two females. The committee voted not to accept this record because no head tufts were seen on the birds, the coloration of the bill did not fit this species, light conditions for the observation were poor, and the presense of multiple Tufted Ducks together in Illinois seemed very unlikely.

Smew (*Mergus albeola*) One male n. of Hamilton HAN on 14 Dec (2002.037). The committee was unanimous in not accepting this record. All agreed that question of origin of the bird was a concern. Other exotic waterfowl observed in this area have apparently escaped from nearby collections. Additionally, the limited description led a majority of the committee to be uncertain that the bird seen was in fact a Smew. The male Smew present on the Mississippi River near Alton from 13 January to 5 March 2001 is still being reviewed by the committee. That bird was unques-

tionably a Smew, and, although it spent most of its time in Missouri waters, was definitely seen on multiple occasions in Illinois. The question of origin of the Alton bird remains the main point of contention.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One reported from East Moline ROC on 22 Nov (1973.004). This bird was seen briefly in flight along the Mississippi River. Most committee members did not think that the brief description provided ruled out terns or gulls, so the record was not accepted, even as an unidentified jaeger .

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) One adult at Waukegan Harbor LAK on 1 Jan (1949.002). This record may very well be correct, as it was seen by a number of observers. However, the only documentation available to the committee was a handwritten letter to Parmalee in 1954, nearly six years after the observation. In this letter, the bird is described only as a white gull with dark legs and feet. Contributing to the mystery surrounding this record, we are unable to make out the name of the letter's author. Attempts by the committee to contact other people who saw the bird in 1990 did not produce any additional details of the sighting.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) One reported from Chicago COO 24 to 26 May (1923.001). This sighting was reported in Hine (1924). Unfortunately, while the conditions of the sighting are given, no description of any type is provided. In the absense of any description, the committee could not accept this record. It would be the easternmost record for this species. Although Lewis's Woodpecker does engage in long-distance movements, the species is typically back on its breeding grounds much earlier in the spring.

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*) One reported at Glencoe COO in a spruce grove on 6 Mar (1898.002). This sighting was first published by Russell (1984; Illinois Audubon Bulletin no. 207 32-33 A possible Three-toed Woodpecker sight record for Illinois), who discovered the sighting in the personal notes of the observer. The notes included a brief description of the bird's plumage and its voice and the notation that the bird was in a spruce area. Although the report is clearly intriguing, the limited description that the observer provided was not sufficient for the committee. Further, the description of the voice as a "croak" does not match that of this species. There are no accepted records of this species for Illinois.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) One was reportedly seen along the North Branch of the Chicago River in Evanston COO on 3 Apr (1974.006). The documentation for this record was provided by the observer in 1990, over 15 years after the observation. Although the details provided by the observer are consistent with the identification, the extraordinary time lag makes it impossible to guess how much the passage of time had influenced the description. Especially given that this was a single observer record, the committee did not consider the report acceptable as the first record for the state.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) One specimen collected in Chicago COO on 12 Jun (1911.001; CAS#414) by C. W. Borggren. Although the specimen clearly belongs to this species, the date is not consistent with a natural vagrant. Natural wanderers of this species typically occur in the fall. Additionally, the committee considered the specimen very worn with a damaged tail, consistent with the individual being an escape from captivity. Woodruff (1912) in reporting the collection of this specimen, indicated that the plumage was in good condition, contrary to the findings of IORC. The basis for this inconsistency is not clear.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) An immature at Lake Chautauqua NWR MSN on 12-17 Oct (2002.029). This single observer report, while very suggestive, had several features that made a majority of the committee unable to accept it as a first state record. Yellow Wagtails have a very complex pattern of geographic variation, and some of the details of the plumage described were not consistent with the immature plumage of the geographically most likely subspecies. Additionally the fact that the observer identified the bird after the fact, and that while the bird was present for several days, the Illinois birding community was not made aware of its presence weighed against the record.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) One was reported from Perkins Woods, Evanston COO on 6 May (1979.002). Two observers provided documentation of this sighting. The reasoning of the committee in not accepting this record is not entirely clear, because the original evaluations (from 1988) of the committee members are not in the IORC files. However, it appears that inconsistencies in the description of the bird by the two observers, the fact that the initial observer did not identify the bird in the field, but only subsequent to leaving the field, and that the second observer saw the bird only very briefly left the committee unable to accept this as the first record for the state. Some subsequent reports of this species remain in review, but there are no accepted records for Illinois.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) A female was reported from Jackson Park, Chicago COO on 24 May (2002.012). The majority of the committee believed that this sparse description of this bird was insufficient to rule out a female-plumaged Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassini*) One female at a feeder in Decatur MAC on 25 Dec (2002.035). A detailed description of this bird unfortunately lacked details of the undertail coverts, the one diagnostic character distinguishing this species from Purple Finch. Although portions of the description were suggestive of this species, the committee was unable to

accept a single-observer report that lacked the crucial field mark for identification.

OTHER UNACCEPTED RECORDS

— (1 record of 1 species)

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*) One probably 4th year at Winthrop Harbor on 26 Nov to 5 December (2001.057). This bird was seen by many observers and generated much controversy. The only photographs obtained were of the bird perched at a significant distance. Despite the number of observers, only three observers documented their sightings to IORC. Despite some very detailed written documentation, in the end, the committee could not currently accept an identification of this gull to subspecies. In part this reflects a lack of knowledge of the identification criteria for some of these subspecies. It also reflects the sense of the committee that, given the lack of confirmed records of this subspecies for the lower forty-eight states, the photographic evidence needed to be diagnostic for acceptance.

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– Douglas F. Stotz
Conservation Ecologist/
Ornithologist, Environmental
and Conservation Programs
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

dstotz@fmnh.org

– David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

djohnsoda@attbi.com

Sod field farms for the "grasspiping" birder in Illinois and nearby regions

by David B. Johnson

It's like birding on a giant pool table!
— Jeff Sundberg (at Wind Lake Sod Farms)

Few places in fall are as unique for birding as sod fields or farms with verdant expanses of turf waiting to be transplanted in suburban yards, golf courses or corporate lawns. But for birders it's the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper that is the "grasspiper" magnet to these green sod fields. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is rarely encountered in Illinois or the Midwest during spring, since at that time, the species migrates west of us through the Great Plains states. In fall, however, Buff-breasted Sandpipers migrate over a much wider North American path and are partial to very short grass or dry areas interspersed with grass. Sod fields that mirror this habitat seem to attract this stately small shorebird. Thus birders and "buffies" unite in fall over this unique artificial habitat.

It was at Wind Lake Sod Farms in Racine County one early September day that Jeff Sundberg exclaimed, "It's like birding on a giant pool table!" Come mid-August to mid-September nearly every birder worth their salt makes a trip to the sod field (farm) of their choice to find this small but elegant shorebird and other "grasspipers."

Other "grasspipers" that use the sod fields and are to be expected in fall include Upland Sandpiper (mid-July through August), American Golden-Plover (mid-August through mid-October), Killdeer (July through October), Baird's (August through September), and Pectoral (late July through mid-November) Sandpipers. In addition, heavy rains or prolonged use of sod field sprinkler systems can create additional habitat, outside of the shortgrass, for a wider variety of shorebird species. Newly formed pools of standing water may attract other shorebirds in smaller numbers such as Black-bellied Plover (also in stripped black soil), Semipalmated Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. Rarities (and not to be expected) that have occurred on sod fields include Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. These fields often support large numbers of Horned Larks, European Starlings, and American Pipits. Other more unusual landbirds include Western Meadowlarks and a specialty bird – Brewer's Blackbird. Additionally, Peregrine Falcons, Cooper's Hawks and American Kestrels can be noted taking advantage of the sometimes large aggregations of birds found on sod farms.

One way to find a local sod field might be to look up the nearest field/farms in your local yellow pages or on the internet—print off a "mapquest" and you're on your way. One note of caution while birding these areas: Given that most, if not all turf farm owners would not appreciate birders trampling their valuable turf, birders should restrict their observing to the roadsides. Most sod farms, include large ones such as HESOD in McHenry and Momence, have either private or public roads, which are close enough

Above: Dave Johnson birds a sod farm in Illinois. Photo by Karen Lund.

Right: One of the rare shorebirds to be seen in Illinois during migration is the Baird's Sandpiper. Lucky birders find it on sod farms or at Montrose Harbor in Chicago, as Jerry Kumery did when he photographed this Baird's 26 August 2003.

to get a good view if you've got a scope. Also note that it can get hot on some dog day afternoons, so have bottled water along with you. Often, at these locations you'll be far from the nearest stores and restaurants.

Here, then, are some of the sod fields in Illinois and the greater Chicago region that birders have had success in finding the coveted Buff-breasted Sandpiper and other "grasspipers."

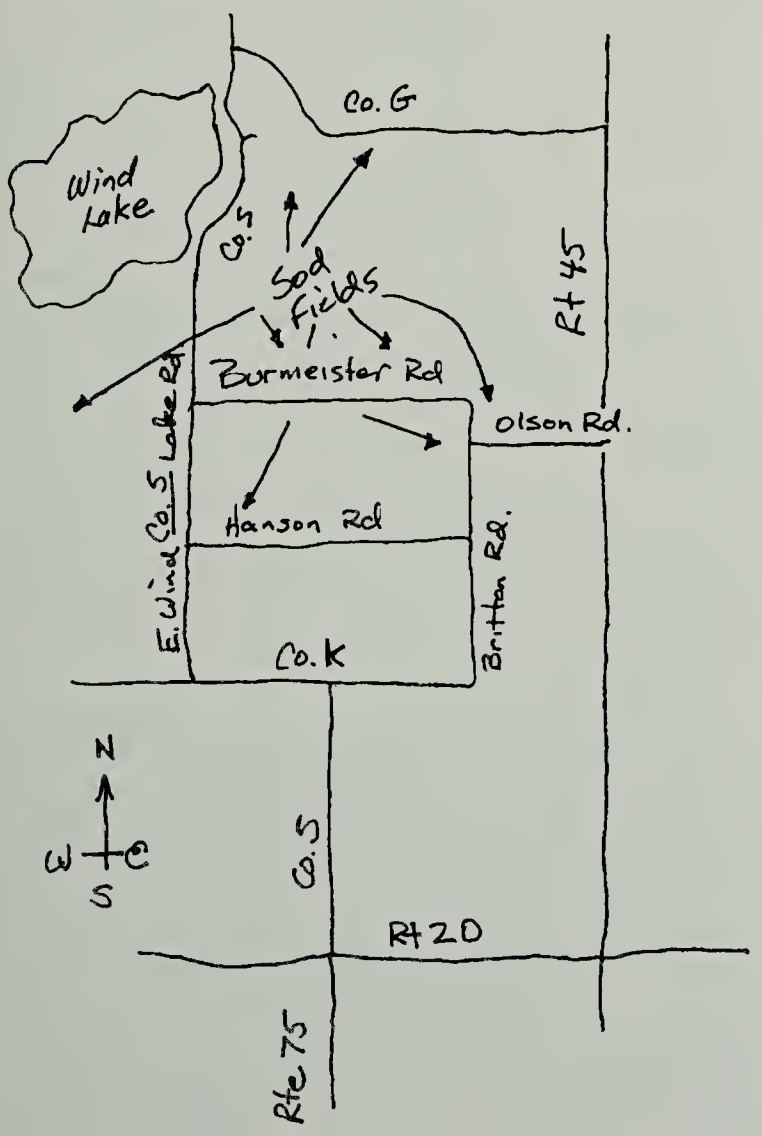
American Golden-Plover is another species that frequents sod farms. These three plovers were photographed 17 August 2002 at the HESOD Farms in McHenry County.

Wind Lake Sod Fields, Wisconsin

This expansive area is nearer to Milwaukee and farther from the Chicago area but worth a visit, due to the area's peat layer and dike system that provides a rich source of undersoil for sod. Andy Sigler and Robert Hughes of Chicago found the fields by grabbing the yellow pages one day while in Racine County. Many an Illinois and Wisconsin birder has added Buff-breasted Sandpiper to their Wisconsin life list as a result of Sigler and Hughes' discovery. Buffies are best at this location along County Roads S and along Burmeister, Britton, and Hanson roads as they make a complete loop connecting back to County S. American Golden-Plovers are often found along County G on the way into Wind Lake proper and anywhere there's black soil from stripped sod. Upland Sandpipers can be anywhere but generally like any "blonde grass" areas. These are patches of turf that have dead straw-colored grass in them. Killdeer, Horned Lark, and European Starling can be abundant here. One specialty, too, is the Brewer's Blackbird that nests along the irrigation ditches throughout the sod fields. All six swallows are common here in the fall. Expect the unexpected like American Pipits and Lapland Longspurs. Both Long-billed Dowitcher and Ruddy Turnstone have been noted, and even a Caspian Tern. Also, don't forget to check out Wind Lake for ducks and other waterbirds.

Directions: Drive north from Highway 20 on County S until you reach County K, which is a T intersection. Turn west on County K (also County S here) until you reach E. Wind Lake Road (in 1 mile). Turn north on E. Wind Lake Road or County S until you reach the first sod fields before Hanson Road. Continue north either to Wind Lake or County G. Wind Lake Road and West Loomis Road will get you to the lake. Be sure you travel the loop off County S east to Burmeister, then Britton south to Hanson Road, then west back to County S. This loop has been the most reliable location for Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers in recent years.

Wind Lake Sod Fields, Wisconsin



McHenry County Sod Fields, Illinois

This sod field has nesting Western Meadowlarks and also has held spectacular numbers of American Pipits (apparently 1,000 plus one October). On a "grasspiper" trip in early July 2003, an observer had 16 singing Western Meadowlarks, and no Easterns. Both Buff-breasted Sandpipers and American Golden-Plovers regularly frequent the fields from mid-August to mid-September. Counts of 15 or more Buff-breasteds and 75 or more golden-plovers have been observed. Nearly all the other "grasspipers" including Upland Sandpiper; Black-bellied Plover; Semipalmated Plover; both yellowlegs; Solitary, Pectoral, Semipalmated, and Least Sandpipers; and Wilson's Snipe have also been seen.

Killdeer are abundant, with numbers often in the 500 plus range. This may be one of the most reliable places to find Brewer's Blackbirds in the state. Recent observations indicate they very likely nest here (pers. comm. S. Bailey), as numbers of this species were seen here in early July 2003. This population likely represents the largest breeding population of Brewer's Blackbirds in the state (pers. comm. S. Bailey). Also, Lapland Longspurs have occurred here in fall.

Illinois birders covet the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and a good place to find them is at sod farms during fall. This "buffie" was photographed 17 August 2002 at the HESOD Farms in McHenry County.

A few other uncommon shorebirds seen here include Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Hudsonian Godwit (pers. comm. D. Shambaugh).

Directions: This area is northwest of Marengo and south of Harvard. Take Route 176 west to the town of Crystal Lake. Turn north on Route 14 from Crystal Lake. Several miles northwest of Woodstock, exit west onto Dunham Road. Continue west to where Dunham intersects with Route 23. The sod farms begin just west of Route 23 on Dunham Road. Look for the green and white striped building with the "HE SOD" farms sign. There is a gravel road going south a short distance past this building into the main body of the sod farms. Note that some birders recently have been denied access to the interior roads of these sod farms.

Additional sod fields, currently under ownership of Central Sod Farms, can be found south of this area. Return to Dunham Road and Route 23. Go south to Marengo and take Route 176 east to the sod fields on the north side of Rte 176 and south of the Kishwaukee River. This location is between Millstream Road and Union Road. Kunde Road also runs east and west and borders these sod fields to the north. Similar "grasspipers" as above can be expected on these sod fields. However, these farms are not as accessible as the HESOD farms and fewer species are typically seen here, possibly due to farming practices.

Kane County Sod Fields, Illinois

Sod fields at Kaneville in Kane County abound with Horned Larks and Killdeer, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers are often observed here in fall. Other sightings have included Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandiper and Least Sandpiper. Morning is the best time to visit.

Directions: Drive west on Main Street from the intersection of Main and Route 47. This is due west of Batavia (approximately 8 miles) and in the town of Kaneville. The fields are on both the north and south sides of Main Street. This birder-friendly location has gravel roads on both sides of Main Street. There's also a nice side street that you can park on and walk across to view.

Another group of sod fields is in northwest Kane County on Melms Road between Walker and West County Line Roads. This sod field is best reached by taking Harmony Road south of Big Timber Road about 1/8 of a mile to Melms Road. This area has been very productive in fall for Upland Sandpipers and American Golden-Plovers. Western Meadowlarks also occur here.

Joe Cooling Sod Farms, Boone County, Illinois

The most common birds here are Killdeer, Horned Lark and Barn Swallow. In August, they are joined by Buff-breasted Sandpipers and an occasional Upland Sandpiper. In fact, this is the most reliable place in the area to find Buff-breasted Sandpipers in fall.

Both Black-bellied Plover and American Golden-Plover have also been spotted here. The heat haze in the vast fields in August gets wicked by mid-morning, so earlier is better for distance viewing, and a scope is a must.

Directions: The Joe Cooling and Sons Sod Farm is on Wheeler Road, south of U.S. 20, and east of the town of Cherry Valley, Illinois. The sod farm is just on the east side of the Boone-Winnebago County line. The vast majority of sod field acreage is west of Wheeler Road, and bordered by Rossiter Road (a gravel road on the south) and Cherry Valley Road, a major paved road on the southwest. No access for viewing is available from either the north or west side of the fields. (See p. 18 of DeLorme.)

Cherry Valley Road is very busy and dangerous, with only one or two places with a gravel pad wide enough on which to park. Rossiter Road is used very little, and is a good place to park for viewing from the south side (but this is the narrowest section of the farm). The best viewing is from along Wheeler Road in the morning when you are looking west. Wheeler Road is also very busy (a blacktop road), but there are a few places where there are gravel pads used by the farm for accessing the fields, and a person can park on those and be completely off of the road. The shoulders of Wheeler

are otherwise pretty narrow, and there aren't many other places to get completely off of the road.

Please note: the private farm lanes are completely off limits to birders, and the property is posted.

Central Sod Farms, Kendall County, Illinois

Central Sod Farms is a good location for American Golden-Plover as well as Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers. Killdeer and Horned Larks are abundant. This location, like others, can be hit or miss. Early mornings or evenings seem to be the best times to visit. These sod fields seem to be expanding every year so the potential for other "grasspipers" is great.

Directions: Take I-80 to Route 47 (The town of Morris is at IL Route 47 and I-80). Drive 8 miles north of the town of Morris. The farm is between the towns of Morris and Yorkville. It is on IL Route 47, on the west side at the junction of Newark Road and IL Route 47.

Wheeler Road Sod Farm, Kendall County, Illinois

Another productive sod farm in Kendall County, and quite large, is near Route 126 and Wheeler Road. The 2-mile long stretch produced American Golden-Plovers and Killdeer in the fall of 2001 and 2002. Western Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows have been seen there in June, and on 31 August 2002, Darrell Shambaugh saw seven American Kestrels along Wheeler Road.

Directions: Take Route 126 east from Yorkville or west from Plainfield to Schlapp Road. Turn south. The sod farm is along Wheeler Road about one mile south of Route 126.

Will County Sod Fields, Illinois

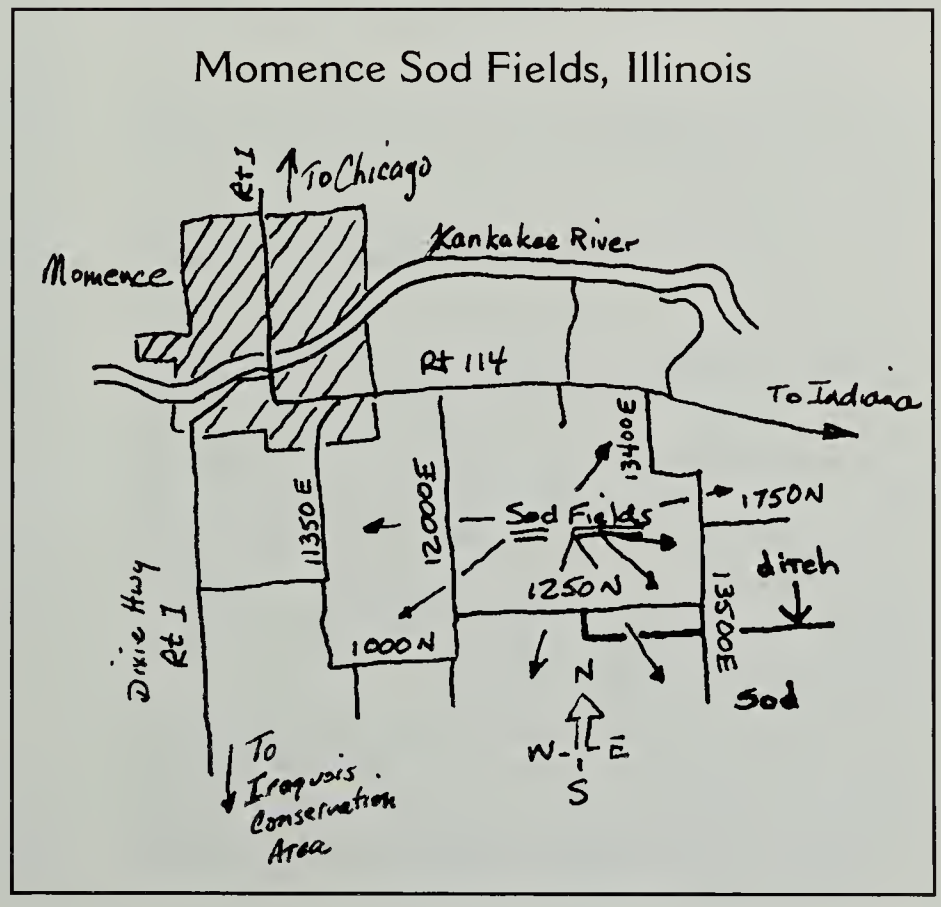
One of the highest counts for the state of 44 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was recorded at this location on 30 August 1983. As this area gets built up with sub-division developments, particularly east of Route 59, it has become less attractive for "grasspipers." However, as of this writing, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Killdeer continue to be seen at and near the school at the northwest corner of Route 59 and 103rd Street. The Naperville Polo Club farther south has hosted both American Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Directions: From Ogden Avenue, drive south on Route 59 and watch for sod fields between 91st Street and 127th Street on either side of Route 59. Get off Route 59 and travel some back roads that parallel this busy road, too.

Momence Sod Fields, Illinois

As of late for many Illinois birders—this area off the beaten path, discovered by David Mandell, —and near the Kankakee River – the Momence Sod Fields has been very attractive for Buff-breasted Sandpipers and American Golden-Plover. Flocks of 30 or more Buff-breasted Sandpipers and 100 or more American Golden-Plovers have been seen here. From late August through mid-September these "grasspipers" are virtually guaranteed here. Baird's Sandpiper also occur here regularly at about the same period in fall, but usually as singles or in very small groups. Rarities include Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, and Wilson's Phalarope after a thunderstorm fallout one fall season. This area can get quite hot and often "buffies" and plovers can be found under the sod sprinkling systems in pools of water. Horned Larks are abundant, and Western Meadowlarks can be heard or seen regularly. Upland Sandpipers often frequent these fields earlier in July and August. Buff-breasted Sandpiper has been recorded here as early as mid-July, too. You'll also find many Killdeer, Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel and Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Directions: From Momence drive east on Highway 114 and turn south on County Road 13400E. This road will jog east and then south again becoming 13500E, and 1750N will join this road (from the east). Continue to 1250N and turn west on this road covering north-south 12000E, 1000N and 11350 E, before you reach



Route 1. Or you can continue south along 13500 E past 1250 N. There is a small (15-20 pairs) Cliff Swallow colony under the small bridge over the channelized ditch running east/west just south of 1250. The sod fields here and along 1250N are two of the better places to find the few breeding Western Meadowlarks in this area. The best areas for "grasspipers" generally are to the east along 13400E and 13500E and 1250N. Where sod has been removed is often where you can find American Golden-Plovers and "buffies." During the fall of 2002, during a hot September day, Baird's Sandpiper, "buffies" and American Golden-Plovers were all crowded into a watery pool just along side 1250N, literally right outside our car window.

Schneider and Hanna Sod Fields, Indiana

One of Indiana's best locations for "grasspipers" is along U.S. Route 41 north of Schneider. Hanna, nearly 40 miles to the east, although less attractive for "grasspipers" in recent years, has had Brewer's Blackbirds. At Hanna is the Shamrock Turf Nurseries, 15 miles east of Valparaiso off IN Route 39. All of the "grasspipers" can be seen at these locations.

Directions: From Route 2 drive south on Highway 41 and bird far off the shoulder. Side roads north of Schneider will take you off the busy highway but you'll need a telescope for this spot. To reach the Shamrock Turf Nurseries travel back to Route 2 east to Route 8 and go north on Route 39 and view the sod fields just north of Route 30. Co. Rd 1300S on the north side of the sod fields is also a good viewing area.

Sod farms are generally smaller and fewer in number outside of Chicagoland. Below are a few known to attract "grasspipers."

Champaign County Sod Farm, Illinois

In recent years, a small sod farm, discovered by the late Bob Chapel, just southeast of Champaign/Urbana and just west of the Salt Fork Forest Preserve (Homer Lake) has produced a few Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers. As usual, Killdeer, Horned Larks and European Starlings are usually the most abundant birds, along with good numbers of swallows, especially Barn, in migration and summer.

Directions: Take IL 74 east from Champaign to the Ogden exist. Go south on IL Route 49. Watch for the small "Salt Fork River Preserve" sign and turn right or west onto 1350N, which is County Highway 14. After passing the forest preserve and Homer Lake, look for 2500E, which only goes north. The sod farm begins just a short distance down from 2500E, on the east side of the road.

Grieder Sod Farm, Illinois

Upland and Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been recently noted at the Grieder Sod farm near the town of Carlock in McLean County. See page 42, D-1/2 in the newest DeLorme.

Directions: The Grieder Sod Farm is located near the town of Carlock, which is approximately 8 miles northwest of Bloomington off of I-74. To get to the farm, take the Carlock exit. Take the main road east through town, which will become U.S. Route 150. Just outside of town (around 1/2 mile) take a right (south) on 800 E. This road is just after the green sign giving distances to the next towns. Just for reference, 800 E crosses I-74. The sod farm is at the intersection of 800 E and 1800 N.

Acknowledgments

As "grasspiper" birders we owe a debt of gratitude to Andy Sigler and Robert Hughes who late one summer day in the 1970s grabbed the yellow pages on sod farms while in Racine County—and found Wind Lake Sod fields, launching sod farm birding as we know it today in the Midwest. Sigler said, "go down Burmeister Road—you're bound to find buffies." I did—and—I did (find buffies that is). Sigler and Hughes also found the Will County Sod Fields and the Indiana sod fields at Schneider and Hannah. I would also like to thank Steve Bailey, Jeff Chapman, Scott Cohrs, Sheryl DeVore, Travis Mahan, Robert Montgomery, Darrell Shambaugh, and Dan Williams for providing information on some recently discovered sod field sites in Kendall, Kane and McHenry counties. Also thanks to Steve Bailey for providing information about a lesser-known sod field in central Illinois. And thanks to former Illinois birders David Mandell, Howie Neilsen, and John O'Brien as well as Andy Sigler and Robert Hughes for so passionately loving "grasspiper" birding that made it available for others to enjoy. Thanks also to Joel Greenberg and Lynne Carpenter for providing a detailed site guide and maps (A Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region, 1999) to some of the locations mentioned in this article.

– David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Road
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
djohnsoda@attbi.com

Field Notes

Sooty Tern drawing by Eric Secker

Fall 2002 Field Notes

by Douglas F. Stotz

Bob Chapel ably compiled the fall field notes since the inception of *Meadowlark* in 1992. Tragically, that service to the birding community and years of expert birding ended abruptly with his death on 2 November in an automobile accident. I volunteered to cover this season in his stead. Having done so enables me to better appreciate the skills Bob brought to the task. His knowledge of the distribution and phenology of Illinois birds and his thoroughness in compiling the records for this account are far beyond my abilities. We will all miss Bob.

The fall of 2002 will probably be most remembered for the significant outbreak of West Nile Virus in the midwestern US, especially Illinois. Dead American Crows infected with West Nile Virus began to be found in early summer, but the epidemic really gathered steam in August and September. By the end of the season West Nile had been found in 100 of Illinois' 102 counties, and Illinois had the greatest number of horse cases, human cases, and human deaths from the disease in the country. Although West Nile Virus is basically a disease of birds, vectored by mosquitoes, the human health threat received most of the attention. Panicked communities initiated aerial pesticide spraying for mosquitoes long after the mosquito numbers had peaked, and the spraying arguably may have had more severe negative impacts on birds than West Nile Virus. Ongoing scientific studies are attempting to understand the dynamics of this disease in natural populations, but it is clear that there are vast differences in the susceptibility of different species of birds to the disease. Birders attempted to make sense of the disease by looking for population changes of local birds. There were widespread reports of decreased numbers of American Crows and Blue Jays, especially in the Chicago area, but also downstate. Other species known to be suscep-tible to West Nile that received mention of low numbers or observed mortality by at least some observers include Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, House Finch, and House Sparrow. Reports of large declines in Black-capped Chickadee numbers came from the Chicago region, but the tie to West Nile remains unclear. Studies to this point do not show chickadees to be particularly susceptible to West Nile Virus. Hawks and owls in captivity seemed to be very susceptible to West Nile, and many wildlife rehabilitators reported receiving numbers of sick raptors infected with West Nile. However, even in the hard-hit Chicago region, declines in raptors did not appear to be widespread.

The fall was generally dry, warmer then average through October, then cooler than average into December. For the first time in several years, most lakes in the northern and central parts of the state had frozen by the end of November, so numbers and diversity of waterbirds lingering into December were lower than in recent past years. The dry conditions created good shorebird habitat in many areas and good counts and diversity were the rule.

Landbird migration was late getting started with little significant movement in August. September was better, but there were few high counts and few rarities. The warm weather allowed warbler migration to continue well into October, and sparrows were generally well represented. But the cold of November brought migration largely to a close fairly early.

Significant rarities were few this fall, and most remained only a day or two. Most exciting was Illinois' first **SOOTY TERN** on the Ohio River following Hurricane Lili; this was the only obvious hurricane-borne species in Illinois, although Sooties were also found in Kentucky and Tennessee. See an article about the Sooty Tern in the next issue and the IORC report in this issue for more information. Other notable rarities included a **EURASIAN WIGEON** in Richland County, another juvenile **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** at Carlyle Lake (but just for a day), a **RUFF** (Reeve or female) there as well, three (!) **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS** at feeders across the state (two of these remained for months), and **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** and **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** at Montrose, each for a single day. Reports of species on the IORC review list are enclosed in square brackets in this summary, pending IORC evaluation of the evidence.

Loons through Hawks

There was a fine migration of Common Loons, especially downstate. An above-average number of Pacific Loons (four) and several Red-throated Loons were found downstate. American White Pelicans continue to increase in Illinois and were found in extraordinary numbers along the Illinois River and at Carlyle and Horseshoe Lakes. A record **7,200 Pelicans** were at Hennepin Lake, and six sites reported maxima of over 1,000 birds. (The first report of over 1,000 pelicans at a time in Illinois dates from only 1995.) The timing and geography of the high counts suggest that at least 20,000 pelicans moved through Illinois this fall. Two Neotropic Cormorants spent much of the fall at Carlyle Lake. Herons were in close to normal numbers except for Great Egret, which had good concentrations through much of the state, culminating in an extraordinary **7,700 Great Egrets** at Swan Lake in early August. There were no Tricolored Herons and only a single ibis, much below recent autumns. Waterfowl were generally late in arriving, but the cool November seemed to hurry birds through. Mergansers and goldeneyes were still only present in small numbers when December arrived. The hawk migration at Illinois Beach State Park seemed close to normal, with impressive Merlin counts. Unfortunately, we lack any other sites that are regularly covered for comparison.

Pheasants through Woodpeckers

Illinois observers did not provide much information on gamebirds this fall. Pheasants and prairie-chickens went completely unreported, and only a couple of observers commented on Northern Bobwhite and Gray Partridge. Similarly, there were few rails reported of any species; whether this indicates low numbers or little attention by observers is not clear. A Purple Gallinule was at Mermet Lake, the only site in Illinois where it is reported with any regularity. A tally of 28,000 American Coots at Hennepin Lake did not seem to reflect higher than usual numbers in the state, but rather the local attractiveness of that site to coots. The Sandhill Crane migration was poor by recent standards, but still two different observers reported over 1,000 birds on different days in November. Shorebird migration was good with impressive numbers of several species from several sites. Dry conditions created good habitat in many areas. Although the numbers couldn't compare with Lake Chautauqua, Horseshoe Lake (Madison County) and Carlyle Lake, the Chicago area had a good diversity of migrants, especially at Lake Calumet. Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope stood out among the less common species as being unusually well-reported. The Long-tailed Jaeger at Carlyle Lake was the only jaeger reported this fall–quite a comedown from the last few years. Winter gulls were just beginning to arrive at the end of the season; Lesser Black-backed was the most widely reported of the large gulls. Laughing Gulls were well-reported downstate, but Franklin's Gulls were down from recent autumns. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their march north, reaching La Salle County. A count of **46** individuals across multiple small towns in Montgomery County suggests the species is consolidating its gains more widely. Flickers showed fairly typical numbers, but it was another poor sapsucker migration.

Passerines

The migration of passerines was generally poor, with below-average diversity at many sites and few reported fallouts. An impressive **47 Winter Wrens** were at Jackson Park in late October, and 5 October brought 102 Eastern Bluebirds, and an amazing **4,730 American Goldfinches** to Illinois Beach State Park. Other observers reported good numbers of goldfinches elsewhere on the lakefront on the same day. 16 October brought good counts of kinglets, Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrushes and the common sparrows to Grant Park. Especially notable for fall was 260 White-crowned Sparrows there. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and two reports of Western Kingbirds enlivened things for a few lucky observers. However, *Empidonax* flycatchers were very poorly reported. Large counts of Tree Swallows included 50,000 at Carlyle Lake and 26,000 at Hennepin Lake. American Pipits were found in good numbers at several sites, led by 200 at Chautauqua. Warbler migration was generally poor. Sparrow migration was better, but still not outstanding, although both Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in good numbers downstate. Three Spotted Towhees were reported, all from Cook County's lakefront.

Irruptive Species

This was one of the worst years in recent memory for irruptive species. The only Goshawks (four singles) came from Illinois Beach State Park. There were no Snowy Owls reported, and only three Northern Shrikes. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches at Morton Arboretum were all that were seen this fall. The winter finches were especially poorly represented, with no reports of White-winged Crossbills or Evening Grosbeaks, three records of Pine Siskin, and one record each of Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll. Purple finches, usually more consistently reported even in non-flight years than the others, were represented by only a smattering of records, and no high counts. Although this was expected to be a non-flight year for winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches, this was still a notably poor showing.

A special thanks to all contributors, who are listed here in full, and by initials following the observations. Observers are alphabetized by their initials or as cited in the report, rather than by alphabetization of the last names. Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Douglas Anderson, Jill Anderson, Louise Augustine, Frank Bennett, Joan Bruchman, Robert Bradley, Richard & Sigurd Bjorkman (R&SBj), Steve Bailey, Todd Bugg, Vic Berardi, Victoria M. Buchwald, Brian Chandler, Jeff Chapman, Karin Cassel, Lynne Carpenter, Melinda Born-Chapman, Peter Cruikshank, Paul R. Clyne, Robert Chapel, Scott Carpenter, Donald Dann, Glyn Dawson, Karl David, Myrna Deaton, Sheryl DeVore, Sue Douglas (SDo), Josh Engel, Darlene Fiske, Matt Fraker, Robert & Karen Fisher, Sue Friscia, Steve Freed (SFd), Glenn Giacinto, Urs Geiser, Brian Herriott, Cathie Hutcheson, Frank Holmes, Leroy Harrison, L. Barrie Hunt, Larry L. Hood, Robert Hughes, Steve Huggins, Dave Johnson, Rhetta Jack, Dan Kassebaum, John Koch (JKo), Jerry Kumery (JKu), Craig Litteken, John Leonard (JLd), Joe Lill (JLl), Tom Lally, Greg Lambeth, Vicki Lang, Charlene Malone, Carolyn A. Marsh, Cindy & John McKee (C&JMc), D. James Mount-joy, Jim Malone, Keith McMullen, Travis Mahan, Vince Moxon, Walter Marcisz, Beryl Nelson, Link Olson, Jeff Reiter, Kevin Richmond, Mary Kay Rubey, Michael Retter, Rhonda Rothrock, William C. Rowe, Al Stokie, Bob Shelby, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Illinois Ornithological Society (field trips),

Jonathan Simms, Leonard Stanley, Tom Schulenberg, Wes Serafin, Craig Thayer, Charles A. Westcott, Christine L. Williamson, David E. Willard, Daniel T. Williams, Eric Walters, Geoff Williamson, Mike Ward, and Jim Ziebol.

Paul Clyne supplied most of the boldfacing and comments on the historical signficance of dates and high counts, based almost exclusively on data published in Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and the recent Illinois journals *Illinois Birds and Birding* (spanning data from summer 1984 through spring 1991) and its immediate successor, *Meadowlark.* Data from other sources may have bearing on the validity of these comments.

2002 Fall Season Field Notes

Red-throated Loon
EA: 26 Oct, Chau (KR); 3 Nov, Carl.C (DK); 3 Nov, Rend L (Franklin Co) (FB). **LD**: 16-20 Nov, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 18 Nov, Rend L (KM).

Pacific Loon
EA: 2 Nov, Carl.C (KR). **MC**: 2, Chau, 10 Nov–one remaining to 16 Nov (KR, SB, IOS). **Others**: 4-5 Nov, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 16 Nov, Clin.L. (GL, SB, 1OS). This species has been removed from the IORC review list.

Common Loon
EA: 14 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 16 Oct (2), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 25 Oct, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB). **MC**: **114**, L Charleston (Coles Co), 15 Nov (RB); 29, Rend L, 16 Nov (LS, KM); 18, East Fork L (Richland Co) (LH); 12, Wilmette (Cook Co), 15 Nov (JKo, EW) **LD**: into Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe
EA: 5 Jul, Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH). **MC**: 124, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS); 105, East Fork L (Richland Co), 30 Oct (LH); 19, Wolf L, (Cook Co.) 20 Oct (GW).

Horned Grebe
EA: 12 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 16 Oct, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB). **MC**: 120, L Springfield (Sangamon Co), 11 Nov (KM); 50, Clin.L, 10 Nov (KM, DK); 32, Chau, 1 Nov (R&SBj); 20, HL, 6 Nov (FH); 15, JP, 14 Nov (SC). **LD**: into Dec.

Red-necked Grebe
EA: 7 Oct (juv.), Chau (KR). **MC**: 3, Clin.L, 7 Nov (KR, KM, DK).

Eared Grebe
EA: 14 Oct (2), Carl.C (KM, DK). **MC**: 2, Carl.C, as above. **LD**: 3 Dec, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 24 Nov, Clin.L (MR).

Western Grebe
EA: 11-12 Oct, HL (FH, KM); 1 Nov, East Fork L (Richland Co) (LH). **LD**: 29 Nov, IBSP (AS).

American White Pelican
EA: 15 Jul (40), Madison Co (KM); 27 Jul (50), Senachwine L (Putnam Co) (DJS). **MC**: **7200**, Hennepin L, 13 Oct (C&JMc); **5000**, Chau, 3 Sep (KR)–**record Illinois high counts**; **4200**, Clear L (Mason Co), date? (R&SBj); 3000, HL, 31 Oct (KM); 2000, Senachwine L (Putnam Co), 15 Sep (UG); 1500, Carl.F, 27 Oct (DK). **LD**: 24 Nov (14), Chau (DJM); 20 Nov, HL (FH); 18 Nov, Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos) (KM); 16 Nov, Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW); 12 Nov (145), Hennepin L (DFS).

Neotropic Cormorant
MC: **2** (ad. & subadult), Carl.C, 17 Aug-5 Oct–ad. present 27 Jul-7 Oct–**first Illinois count greater than one** (DK:ph, IOS, TM).

Double-crested Cormorant
EA: 15 Aug (16), JP (KC). **MC**: 4500, Rend L, 18 Nov (KM); 541, Chau, 24 Oct (R&SBj); 225, Evanston, 27 Sep (EW). **LD**: into Dec.

American Bittern
EA: 21 Sep, JP (WS). **LD**: 1 Nov, Normal (McLean Co) (MF); 12 Oct, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

Great Blue Heron
MC: 318, Chau, 5 Sep (R&SBj); 300, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK); 246, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 10 Aug (GW). **LD**: into Dec.

Great Egret
MC: **7700**, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK)–**unprecedented high count** (previous Illinois maximum is 2500 individuals); 1500, Carl.L, 22 Aug (KM); 1046, Chau, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 426, Johnson Co, 8 Sep (FB); 386, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 10 Aug (GW). **LD**: 1 Dec, East Fork L (Richland Co) (LH); 29 Nov, HL (FH); 17 Nov, Tampier Slough, Palos (CTh); 16 Nov (9), Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW).

Snowy Egret
EA: 2-5 Aug, Rockford (DTW); 3 Aug, Hennepin L (C&JMc). **MC**: 45, HL, 16 Jul (KM); 25, Meredosia (Morgan Co), 25 Aug (RJ); 21, Chau, 8-30 Aug (SB,R&SBj). **LD**: 25 Oct, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (DJS); 20 Oct, HL (FH); 19 Oct (5), Chau (R&SBj); 19 Oct, Mermet L (FB); 11 Oct, Carl.C (DK).

Little Blue Heron
MC: **607**, HL, 16 Jul (KM); 75, Johnson Co, 8 Sep (FB); 44, Chau, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 9, LCal, 2 Aug (WM). **LD**: 13 Oct, HL (FH); 5 Oct (4), Carl.F (DK); 12 Sep, L Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 1 Sep, lndian Ridge Marsh, LCal (GW).

Cattle Egret
MC: 78, St. Clair Co, 28 Aug (KM); 7, Chau, 12-19 Sep (R&SBj). **LD**: 10 Nov (9), JP (PRC).

Green Heron
MC: 8, Mason Co, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 7, Carl.L, 27 Jul (KM); 3, JP, 15 Aug (KC). **LD**: 17 Nov, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 13 Nov, Carbondale (Jackson Co) (VL); 4 Nov, IBSP (KM); 15 Oct, JP (KC); 12 Oct, Hutton Township (Coles Co) (RB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
MC: **230**, HL, 16 Jul (KM); 110, Chau, 12 Sep (R&SBj). **LD**: 29 Nov, HL (FH); 28 Nov (imm.), JP (PRC).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
MC: 4, Fairmont City (St. Clair Co), 3 Aug (KM, IOS). **LD**: 7 Sep-10 Oct (imm.), JP (SC, KC). **Others**: 23 Aug, Carl.F (DK); 1 Sep (imm.), Big Marsh, LCal (AS, WM).

Plegadis, sp.
Hennepin L, 26 Oct (LC, PC).

Black Vulture
MC: 2, Pomona (Johnson Co), 17 Aug (RR).

Turkey Vulture
EA: 31 Aug, IBSP (VB). **MC**: **150**, L Charleston (Coles Co), 6 Nov (RB); 48, IBSP, 13 Oct (VB); 30, Madison Co, 2 Sep (KM). **LD**: 27 Nov, Alton (Madison Co) (FH); 17 Nov, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB); 2 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Greater White-fronted Goose
EA: 27 Oct, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 153, Chau, 14 Nov (R&SBj); 13, Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos), 18 Nov (KM); 9, L Renwick (Will Co), 2 Nov (CA).

Snow Goose
EA: 9 Oct (3), Rockford (DTW); 19 Oct (blue morph), Fermi (UG). **MC**: 8000, Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos), 18 Nov; 200+, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 3 Nov (FB); 28, L Renwick (Will Co), 2 Nov (CA). **LD**: 1 Dec, Antioch (Lake Co) (DTW).

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

EA	= Earliest Arrival(s)	m.ob.	= many observers	L	= Lake
MC	= Maximum Count(s)	:ph.	= photographed	NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge
LD	= Latest Departures(s)	ad.	= adult	P	= Park
*	= documented record	imm.	= immature	SP	= State Park
IORC	= Illinois Ornithological Records Committee	Co(s)	= County (Counties)		
		FP	= Forest Preserve		

Carl.C/F/L	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co/Fayette Co/ county unspecified)	LCal	= Lake Calumet & vicinity (Cook Co)
Chau	= Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)	LShel.M/S	= Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie Co/ Shelby Co)
Chi	= Chicago (Cook Co), but see GrantP, Montrose and JP for data from sublocales	M.Arb.	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
Clin.L	= Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)	Mermet L	= Mermet Lake Conservation Area (Massac Co)
Evanston	= Evanston (Cook Co)	Montrose	= Montrose Harbor area, Chicago (Cook Co)
Fermi	= FermiLab at Batavia (Du Page Co)	Palos	= Palos area Forest Preserves, including Little Red School House, Saganashkee Slough, etc. (Cook Co)
GrantP	= Grant Park, Burnham Park Harbor & vicinity (Chicago, Cook Co)	Pr.Rdg	= Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper & Marion Cos)
Hennepin L	= Hennepin Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)	Rend L	= Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
HL	= Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)	Rice L	= Rice Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (Fulton Co)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)	Rockford	= Rockford (Winnebago Co)
JP	= Chicago's Jackson Park & vicinity (Cook Co)	SRSF	= Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
		Wauk.	= Waukegan (Lake Co)

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds.

Headings for species requiring IORC review in parts of Illinois or in some plumages are **underlined**, while those for species requiring review of all records are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined and boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**.

The 1996 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names.

Records enclosed in square brackets [ ] are pending evaluation by the IORC.

Ross's Goose

EA: **21 Sep**, La Salle Co (C&JMc); 9 Nov (imm.), Gilman (Iroquois Co) (DFS); 18 Nov, Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Cos) (KM). **MC**: 2, Chau, 16 Nov (KR). **LD**: 1 Dec, Antioch (Lake Co) (DTW); 1 Dec, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (DTW).

Canada Goose

MC: 5400+, IBSP, 12 Oct (WS); 2500, Chau, 11 Nov (KM); 1600+, Nelson L Marsh FP (Kane Co), 2 Nov (MBC). **"Richardson's Goose" EA**: 3 Oct, Riverwoods (Lake Co) (EW). **MC**: 348, Woodford Co, 18 Nov (MF).

Mute Swan

MC: 28, Wolf L, LCal, 29 Nov (CAM). **LD**: 10 Dec (6), JP (PRC).

Tundra Swan

MC: **225**, Spring L (Carroll Co), 16 Nov (DTW); 38, Chau, 23 Nov (KR).

Wood Duck

MC: 290, Hennepin L, 15 Aug (DFS); 265, HL, 16 Jul. **LD**: 2 Nov, Fermi (UG).

Gadwall

EA: **23 Jul** (6), Carl.C (DK); 15 Aug (2), Hennepin L (DFS). **MC**: 3000, HL, 31 Oct (KM); 2400, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS).

EURASIAN WIGEON

1 Nov (male), East Fork L (Richland Co). (LH:ph). Bohlen (1989) accepts six fall records, and IORC has subsequently published acceptance of only one additional fall record (from 1999) beside this one.

American Wigeon

EA: 19 Sep, HL (FH); 22 Sep, Palos (WS). **MC**: **2600**, Hennepin L, 3 Nov (C&JMc); 1350, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS); 900, Chau, 1 Nov (R&SBj).

American Black Duck

EA: 18 Aug, Big Marsh, LCal (WM). **MC**: 97, Chau, 14 Nov (R&SBj).

Mallard

MC: 71,095, Chau, 14 Nov (R&SBj).

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 27 Jul (4), Arcola (Douglas Co) (RC); 6 Aug (4), Carl.L (DK); 14 Aug (75), HL (KM); 18 Aug (4), JP (KC). **MC**: 3000, Hennepin L, 8 Sep (C&JMc); 1600, Clear L (Mason Co), 12 Sep (R&SBj); 200, HL, 10 Oct (KM). **LD**: 12 Nov (9), Hennepin L (DFS); 10 Nov, Rainbow Beach, Chi (CAM).

Northern Shoveler
EA: 22 Jul, HL (KM); 10 Aug, Big Marsh, LCal (WM). **MC**: 2700, Clear L (Mason Co), 10 Oct (R&SBj); 1225, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS); 225, OÕFallon (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Northern Pintail
EA: **25 Jun** (eclipse male), Carl.F (DK); 2 Sep (6), Carl.F (KM, DK). **MC**: 2982, Chau, 1 Nov (R&SBj); 2215, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS).

Green-winged Teal
EA: 10 Jul, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 11 Jul, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 4542, Chau, 24 Oct (R&SBj); 2500, Hennepin L, 8 Sep (C&JMc); 550, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 7 Nov (WS); 320, Deadstick Pond, LCal, 20 Oct (WM). **LD**: 23 Nov, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (Du Page Co) (UG).

Canvasback
EA: 13 Oct, Rockford (DTW). **MC**: 295, Chau, 1 Nov (R&SBj).

Redhead
EA: **11 Sep**, Lincoln P, Chi (GW); 11 Oct (3), HL (KM). **MC**: 60, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS); 21, IBSP, 9 Nov (EW).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 2 Aug, Swan L (Calhoun Co) (KM, DK); 24 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR). **MC**: 675, OÕFallon (St. Clair Co), 18 Nov (KM); 550, Vulcan L (McHenry Co), 10 Nov (DFS); 275, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS).

Greater Scaup
EA: 13 Oct (25), Evanston (EW). **MC**: 3000+, Wilmette (Cook Co), 15 Nov (EW, JKo); 1790, IBSP, 25 Nov (EW). **Others**: 7-10 Nov (female), Chau (KR).

Lesser Scaup
EA: 5 Oct (9), Carl.L (KM); 16 Oct, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB). **MC**: 850, HL, 31 Oct (KM); 228, Chau, 14 Nov (R&SBj).

Harlequin Duck
EA: 22-29 Nov (female), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (AS, m.ob.).

Surf Scoter
EA: 6 Oct, IBSP (AS); 14 Oct, Carl.C (KM). **MC**: 16, Melvin Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co), 5 Nov (CM, JM)–some present 28 Oct-30 Nov (FH); 6, Carl.C, 17 Nov (DK); 4 (juv.), L Decatur (Macon Co), 17 Nov; 4, Borah L (Richland Co), 4 Nov (LH). **LD**: 24 Nov (female), L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM). **Others**: 20 Oct - 24 Nov (max. of 3 on 9-10 Nov), Shabbona L (De Kalb Co) (DJS, KR); 24 Oct (2 juv.), Chau (KR); 25 Oct -14 Nov (2-3), L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB); 23 Nov, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR); 23 Nov, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MR). Poorly reported from L Michigan, but extraordinarily widespread inland.

White-winged Scoter
EA: 14-18 Oct (2), Lock & Dam #14 (Rock Island Co) (SFd); 31 Oct (2), HL (KM); 3 Nov, Rend L (Franklin Co) (FB). **MC**: 6, L Decatur (Macon Co), 31 Oct (TM); 3, Wauk., 3 Nov (KM, VM); 2, Lower Peoria L (Tazewell Co), 7 Nov (KR). **LD**: 26 Nov, Lake Co lakefront (KD). **Others**: 4-16 Nov, L Springfield (Sangamon Co) (KM); 4 Nov, Carl.C (LH, BK).

Bufflehead in flight at Illinois Beach State Park. 21 October 2002. Photo by Eric Walters.

Black Scoter
EA: 16 Oct (4), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 31 Oct, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 4 Nov, L Springfield (Sangamon Co) (KM). **MC**: 4, Wilmette, as above; 2, L Decatur (Macon Co), 27 Nov (TM); 2, East Fork L (Richland Co), 1 Nov (LH); 2, Montrose, 17 Nov (GW). **LD**: 3 Dec, L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM).

Long-tailed Duck
EA: 5 Oct (3), Lake Co lakefront (KD); 16-23 Nov (imm.), Heyworth (McLean Co) (TB, m.ob.). **MC**: 28, Wauk., 24 Nov (AS).

Bufflehead
EA: 18 Aug (2females), Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (SB, SD); 21 Oct, IBSP (EW:ph, see photo in this issue); 26 Oct, Nelson L Marsh FP (Kane Co) (UG); 1 Nov, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB), 4 Nov, HL (FH). **MC**: 85, Chau, 14 Nov (R&SBj).

Common Goldeneye
EA: 3 Nov (4), JP (KC); 17 Nov, HL (FH). **MC**: 81, Gillson P, Wilmette (Cook Co), 4 Nov (KM).

Hooded Merganser
MC: **510**, Chau, 21 Nov (R&SBj)–**record Illinois high count** excluding aerial surveys; 185, Joliet, 29 Nov (DFS); 105, Palos, 17 Nov (CTh); 65, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DK).

Common Merganser
EA: **15 Sep** (male–summering?), Henry (Marshall Co) (UG); 7 Nov (2 females), GrantP (DFS); 16 Nov, Chau (KM, SB, IOS.).

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: 31 Oct, JP (SC); 1 Nov, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB). **MC**: 205, JP, 22 Nov (KC).

Ruddy Duck
EA: **2 Aug** (4), Swan L (Calhoun Co) (KM, DK); 15 Sep, HL (FH). **MC**: 1100, HL, 28 Oct (KM); 679, Chau, 7 Nov (R&SBj). **Others**: leucistic, 27 Oct, HL (FH).

Osprey
EA: 5 Aug, Rockford (DTW); 20 Aug, East Fork L (Richland Co) (LH); 24 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR); 2 Sep, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 14, IBSP, 10 Sep (VB); 3, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM). **LD**: 25 Nov, IBSP (VB, EW, m.ob.); 8 Nov, East Fork L (Richland Co) (LH).

Mississippi Kite
LD: 22 Aug (3), Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR).

Bald Eagle
EA: 23 Aug (2), McGinnis Slough, Palos (WS); 22 Sep, IBSP (VB); 27 Sep (imm.), Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 57, Chau, 21 Nov (R&SBj). **LD**: 25 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Northern Harrier
EA: 18 Aug, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 27 Aug, Fermi (WM); 1 Sep, HL (FH); 2 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 18, IBSP, 1 Nov (VB); 3, Chau, 11 Nov (KM) & 29 Nov (R&SBj). **LD**: 30 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 6 Aug, Carl.C (DK:ph); 7 Aug, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (R&KF, JS). **MC**: 168, IBSP, 13 Oct (VB). **LD**: 30 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Cooper's Hawk
EA: 31 Aug, Evanston (EW); 31 Aug, IBSP (VB). **MC**: 9, IBSP, 5 Oct (VB); 3, various dates, JP (PRC); 3, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 2 Sep (UG). **LD**: 19 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Northern Goshawk
EA: **10 Sep**, IBSP (VB)–**record early arrival** by six days. **MC**: 2, IBSP, 26 Oct, 1 Nov & 2 Nov (VB). **LD**: 30 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Red-shouldered Hawk
EA: 5 Oct, IBSP (VB). **MC**: 6, IBSP, 1 Nov (VB); 3, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 4 Oct (KM). **LD**: 25 Nov, IBSP (VB). **Others**: 7 Sep, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMc).

Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 15 Aug, Evanston (EW); 18 Aug, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 229, IBSP, 22 Sep (VB). **LD**: 2 Nov, Nelson L Marsh FP (Kane Co) (MBC).

Swainson's Hawk
LD: 16 Aug (imm.), McHenry Co (JLd).

Red-tailed Hawk
EA: 10 Aug, JP (PRC). **MC**: 256, IBSP, 1 Nov (VB).

Rough-legged Hawk
EA: 20 Oct, IBSP (VB). **MC**: 11, IBSP, 1 Nov (VB). **LD**: 1 Dec, IBSP (VB).

Golden Eagle
EA: 31 Oct, IBSP (VB). **LD**: 24 Nov, Clin.L (MR).

American Kestrel
EA: 11 Aug, JP (PRC). **MC**: 17, Kendall Co, 10 Aug (DFS); 12, southwest Franklin Co, 19 Nov (LS). **LD**: 25 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Merlin
EA: 3 Sep, IBSP (VB); 21 Sep, Carl.C (DK); 28 Sep, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: **50**, IBSP, 3 Oct (VB); **40**, IBSP, 4 Oct (VB). **LD**: 7 Nov, IBSP (VB).

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 2 Sep, IBSP (VB); 21 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 18, IBSP, 4 Oct (VB); 3 (probably local breeders), Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM). **LD**: 30 Nov, IBSP (VB); 15 Nov, HL (FH).

Gray Partridge
MC: 13, De Kalb Co, 24 Aug (DJS)–the only report.

Ring-necked Pheasant
No data.

Greater Prairie-Chicken
No data.

Wild Turkey
MC: 18, Rockford, 6 Sep (DTW); 15, St. Clair Co, 31 Oct (KM). **Others**: leucistic, 19 Nov, Melvin Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co) (FH).

Northern Bobwhite
Others: 15 Oct (2), Herrick L FP (JC); poor numbers (KM).

Yellow Rail
EA: 9 Oct, Pr.Rdg (fide LH). **MC**: 2, Pr.Rdg, 21-26 Oct (fide LH). **LD**: 26 Oct, 18 Bottoms (Franklin Co) (LS).

Virginia Rail
EA: 18 Aug, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM). **MC**: 2, Chau, 3 Oct (KR). **LD**: 12 Oct (found dead), HL (FH); 22 Sep, Cypress Creek NWR (Johnson Co) (FB).

Sora
EA: 12 Aug, Bolingbrook (Will Co) (UG). **MC**: 10, HL, 1 Oct (KM); 7, Chau, 19 & 26 Sep (R&SBj); 5, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 12 Oct (UG). **LD**: 16 Oct, HL (FH).

Purple Gallinule
LD: Mermet L, 1 Sep. (FB).

Common Moorhen
MC: 17, LCal, 10 Aug (WM). **LD**: 15 Sep, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM); 8 Sep, HL (FH). **Others**: 2 Aug, Fairmont City (St. Clair Co) (KM, IOS).

American Coot
EA: **15 Jul** (4), HL (KM)–see remarks. **MC**: **28,000**, Hennepin L, 3 Nov (C&JMc)–**second highest Illinois count** excluding aerial surveys; 5400, HL, 19 Oct (KM); 3900, Clear L (Mason Co), 10 Oct (R&SBj); 3000, Chau, 3 Oct (KR); 790, Will Co, 23 Nov (DFS). The 15 Jul arrival date is the earliest available, although the published record on early fall migrants is limited. Moreover, it is questionable whether true migrants arrive in Illinois prior to mid- or late August.

Sandhill Crane
EA: 5 Oct, northeastern Illinois, numerous sites (m.ob.). **MC**: 1800, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 22 Nov (R&KF); 1000+, Woodridge (Du Page Co), 17 Nov (MBC). **Others**: 16 Nov, Coles Co (RB)–third fall record for area.

[Whooping Crane
Glacial P, 13 Nov–an individual from the 2002 Wisconsin re-introduction attempt. See the lead article in the previous issue of *Meadowlark*.]

Black-bellied Plover
EA: 26 Jul (29), Montrose (JE, m.ob.); 2 Aug, Swan L (Calhoun Co) (KM, DK); 8 Aug (7), Chau (SB); 11 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MF). **MC**: 29, Montrose, as above; 12, McHenry Co, 16 Aug (KD); 12, Rockford, 15 Sep (DTW). **LD**: 3 Nov (4), Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 15 Oct, IBSP (EW).

American Golden-Plover
EA: **21 Jun**, Carl.C (DK)–record early for southern Illinois; 28 Jun, Wabash Co (LH); 5 Jul, Coles Co (LBH). **MC**: 19, Kendall Co, 15 Sep (UG); 16, Carl.L (DK). **LD**: 10 Nov, Chau (KM, DK); 2 Nov, Rockford (DTW).

Semipalmated Plover
EA: 6 Jul, Rockford (DTW); 20 Jul, Chau (RC, KR); 22 Jul, HL (KM); 23 Jul, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 50+, Chau, 8 & 9 Aug (SB); 42, Deadstick Pond, LCal, 20 Aug (WM); 33, Chau, 22 Aug (R&SBj). **LD**: 19 Oct (8), Carl.C (DK); 12 Oct (3), Eggers Woods, LCal (CAM).

Piping Plover
EA: 7 Jul, Wauk. (SH); 22 Jul (2), HL (KM, DK, CM, m.ob.); 24 Jul, JP (PRC); 1-6 Aug, Carl.C (DK, KM). **MC**: 2, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 24 Aug (LH, BS). **LD**: 22 Sep, Chau (KR); 3 Sep, JP (BH).

Killdeer
EA: 4 Aug, JP (KC). **MC**: **6000**, Carl.F, 4 Jul (DK)–**twice the previous Illinois high count**; **1332**, Chau, 8 Aug (R&SBj); 400, Kendall Co, 10 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 1 Dec, Rockford (DTW); 30 Nov, Wauk. (AS).

Black-necked Stilt
MC: 14 (including 6 young), Alexander Co, 31 Jul (KM). **LD**: 3 Sep (2), Alexander Co (FB).

American Avocet
EA: 24 Jul, Rice L (RC); 26 Jul, Montrose (JE, m.ob.); 27 Jul (4), Chau (KR); 2 Aug, Swan L (Calhoun Co) (KM, DK); 8 Aug, Grassy Slough (Johnson Co) (FB); 14 Aug, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 11, Clear L (Mason Co), 8 Aug-1 Nov (R&SBj); 10, Chau, 3 Sep (KR), 8, Montrose, 1 Oct (JLl); 6, Rice L, 30 Jul-25 Aug (KR). **LD**: 1 Nov, Clear L, as above; 27 Oct (2), Madison Co (FH, JZ); 27 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 19-26 Oct, LShel.M (TM).

Greater Yellowlegs
EA: 8 Jul (2), Carl.F (DK); 20 Jul, Chau (RC); 22 Jul, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 22 Jul, HL (KM). **MC**: 90, Chau, 22 Aug (R&SBj). **LD**: 23 Nov, Tampier Slough, Palos (CTh); 16 Nov, IBSP (AS); 11 Nov, Chau (KM).

Lesser Yellowlegs
EA: 3 Jul (2), Carl.F (DK); 5 Jul, Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 6 Jul (3), Rockford (DTW); 6 Jul (3), De Kalb Co (DJS, IOS); 12 Jul, HL (FH). **MC**: 1628, Chau, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 760, Hennepin L, 15 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 7 Nov, Coles Co (LBH); 3 Nov, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 30 Oct, Madison Co (FH); 26 Oct, Batavia (Kane Co) (UG).

Solitary Sandpiper
EA: 2 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 4 Jul, LShel.S (RC); 14 Jul, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM). **MC**: 12, Carl.L, 24 Jul (KM); 7, Indian Ridge Marsh, LCal, 17 Aug (WM). **LD**: **19 Oct**, Fermi (UG)–record late date for northern Illinois; 17 Oct, Chain of Rocks Canal (Madison Co) (KM); 12 Oct (2), Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS).

Willet
EA: 21 Jul, Rice L (KR); 26-27 Jul, Swan L (Calhoun Co) (CM, KM, DK); 10 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB). **MC**: 6, Carl.F, 18 Aug (DK, MD, RC). **LD**: 24 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MF); 24 Aug, Montrose (JLl); 14 Aug, HL (KM).

Spotted Sandpiper
EA: 6 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 22 Jul, HL (KM); 30 Jul (2 migrants), JP (KC). **MC**: 30, Rice L, 24 Jul (RC); 15, Chau, 15 Aug (R&SBj); 15, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK); 8, Rockford, 6 Jul (DTW). **LD**: 29 Oct, Melvin Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co) (FH); 19 Oct, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS); 19 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 19 Oct (3), Mermet L (FB).

Upland Sandpiper
EA: **21 Jun**, Carl.C (DK)–apparently a record early arrival if true migrant; 20 Jul, Rice L (KR). **MC**: 5, Kendall Co, 19 Aug (JC); 3, McHenry Co, 15 Aug (DTW); 2, Dunham Rd sodfarm (McHenry CO.), 12 Aug (SB,SD): 2, Montrose, 16 Aug (JE, RH, m.ob.); 2, Indian Ridge Marsh, LCal, 17 Aug (JE); 2, Carl.F, 18 Aug (DK). **LD**: 25 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MF).

Whimbrel
EA: 27 Jul, IBSP. **LD**: 8 Sep, **Johnson Co** (FB).

Hudsonian Godwit
EA: 22 Sep, Cypress Creek NWR (Johnson Co) (FB). **MC**: 3, McHenry Co, 2 Sep (DJS). **LD**: 3 Nov, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB).

Marbled Godwit
EA: 18 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 22 Aug, Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBj). **MC**: **6**, Chau, 25 Aug (KR)–ties previous fall high count from 1993. **LD**: 9 Sep, Chau (KR, LA); 1 Sep, Carl.F (DK:ph).

Ruddy Turnstone
EA: 27 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 29 Jul, HL (KM, FH); 6 Aug (3), Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co) (DD). **MC**: 13, Chau, 13 Aug (KR). **LD**: 18 Aug, HL (CM); 18 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 17 Aug (2), IBSP & Wauk. (AS); 17 Aug (2), Carl.C (DK).

Red Knot
EA: **20-22 Jul** (ad.), Rice L (KR, TM)–record early arrival away from LCal. **MC**: 3, IBSP, 17-18 Aug & 24-25 Aug (AS, DTW); 2, HL, 17-18 Aug (CM). **LD**: 22 Sep (2 present on 21 Sep), Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM, UG, R&KF); 15 Sep, Carl.L (DK). There appeared to be an influx of this species during the period 14-25 Aug, with at least 15 birds reported across the state.

Sanderling
EA: 14 Jul (6), Wauk. (AS); 22 Jul, Rice L (KR). **MC**: 43, Wauk., 7 Nov (AS); 32, JP, 15 Sep (KC); 21, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM). **LD**: 10 Nov (4), Wauk. (AS); 3 Nov, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper
EA: 14 Jul, Rockford (DTW); 14 Jul, Big Marsh, LCal (WM); 15 Jul, HL (KM). **MC**: **2234**, Chau, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 350, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK). **LD**: 8 Oct, Madison Co (FH); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 21 Sep, LCal (UG).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 21 Jul (3), Carl.C (DK); 21 Jul, Rice L (KR). **MC**: 8, Carl.C, 17 Aug (DK); 6, Mermet L, 19 Oct (FB); 5, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK); 4, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 31 Aug (FB, KM, IOS); 3, Chau, 13 Aug (KR); 2, La Salle L (La Salle Co), 24 Aug (C&JMc); 2 (juv.), Deadstick Pond, LCal, 25 Aug (WM, m.ob.). **LD**: 19 Oct, Mermet L, as above; 9 Oct, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB); 11 Sep, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS).

Least Sandpiper
EA: 4 Jul, LShel.S (RC); 4 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 5 Jul, Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 6 Jul (38), Rockford (DTW); 6 Jul, Miller Meadows FP (Cook Co) (JA, WM); 7 Jul (3), Wauk. (AS); 12 Jul, HL (FH). **MC**: **3000**, Chau, 24 Jul (RC); 1000, HL, 22 Jul (KM); 250, Carl L, 23 Jul (DK); 103, Rockford, 14 Jul (DTW). **LD**: 20 Nov (3), Jasper Co (LH, BS); 17 Nov (7), Rend L (Franklin Co) (FB); 2 Nov, Rockford (DTW).

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 7 Aug, Carl.C (DK:ph). **MC**: 13, Mermet L, 11 Oct (FB). **LD**: 19 Oct (6), Mermet L (FB).

Baird's Sandpiper
EA: **20 Jul** (ad.), Chau (KR, RC); 17 Aug, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 18, Chau, 22 Sep (KR); 6, Johnson Co, 22 Sep (FB); 5 (juv.), Deadstick Pond, LCal, 1 Sep (WM). **LD**: 6 Oct, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 2 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 5 Jul, Coles Co (LBH); 6 Jul (2), De Kalb Co (DJS, IOS); 14 Jul (5), Rockford (DTW); 14 Jul (12), Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS); 14 Jul (9), Big Marsh, LCal (WM). **MC**: 5000, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK); 3499, Chau, 1 Aug (R&SBj); 2500, HL, 29 Jul (KM); 125, IBSP, 2 Sep (AS). **LD**: 9 Nov (4), IBSP (EW); 6 Nov (20), Madison Co (FH); 2 Nov (7), Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (DTW).

Dunlin
EA: **28 Jul** (3), JP (KC); 22 Sep (2), Cypress Creek NWR (Johnson Co) (FB). **MC**: 300, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DK); 210, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 3 Nov (FB); 110, Jasper Co, 28 Oct (LH); 56, Eggers Woods, LCal, 18 Oct (CAM); 45, Tampier Slough, Palos, 3 Nov (CTh, CA). **LD**: 20 Nov (21), Jasper Co (LH, BS); 17 Nov (18), Rend L (Franklin Co) (FB); 10 Nov (15), Rockford (DTW).

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 14 Jul, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS); 20 Jul (40+), Chau (RC, KR); 22 Jul (4), HL (DK, KM); 23 Jul, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: **441**, Chau, 22 Aug (R&SBj); 50, Rend L, 31 Aug (LH, BS); 45, LCal, 17 Aug (GW). **LD**: **3 Nov**, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB)–third latest Illinois departure date; 16 Oct, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM); 28 Sep, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS); 24 Sep (2), Carl.L (KM).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
EA: **27 Jul**, LCal (JE); 2 Aug (2), HL (KM, DK); 3 Aug, Mendota (La Salle Co) (C&JMc). **MC**: **60**, Chau, 22 Sep (KR)–**record Illinois high count** by 14 individuals; 16, Carl.C, 15 Sep (DK); 10, Dunham Rd sod farm (McHenry Co.) 12 Aug (SB, SD); 8, Momence (Kankakee Co), 1 Sep (AS). **LD**: **18 Oct**, Mermet L (FB)–third latest Illinois departure date.

RUFF
Carl.L, 17-19 Aug. (DK:ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 3 Jul, Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 6 Jul (2), Carl.F (DK); 6 Jul, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS, IOS). **MC**: 125+, Chau, 8 & 9 Aug (SB); 90, Montrose, 17 Aug (JE). **LD**: 15 Sep, Deadstick Pond (WM).

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: **20 Jul** (ad.), Chau (KR, RC); **20 Jul**, Rice L (KR); 15 Aug, Carl.L (KM); 17 Aug, HL (WCR). **MC**: 189, Clear L (Mason Co), 17 Oct (R&SBj); 9, Deadstick Pond, LCal, 7 Oct (WM). **LD**: 27 Oct (3), Carl.F (DK); 19 Oct, Fermi (UG).

Wilson's Snipe
EA: **2 Jul**, Carl.F (DK)–second earliest Illinois arrival date; 14 Jul, Wabash Co (LH); 22 Jul, Rice L (KR). **MC**: 51, Mermet L, 18 Oct (FB); 21, Hennepin L, 3 Nov (C&JMc). **LD**: 23 Nov, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

American Woodcock
EA: 15 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 2, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW). **LD**: 23 Nov (2), Massac Co (FB); 3 Nov, JP (PRC).

Wilson's Phalarope
EA: 19 Jul (imm.), Wabash Co (LH); 20 Jul, Rice L (KR); 2 Aug (2), Carl.L (DK, KM). **MC**: **22**, Chau, 17 Aug (KR, LA); 4, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 24 Aug (LH); 3, Carl.C, 15-17 Aug (DK, KM); 2, Big Marsh, LCal, 20 Aug (WM). **LD**: **26 Oct**, LShel.M (TM); **26 Oct** (2), Carl.F (DK, WCR)–second latest Illinois departure dates.

Red-necked Phalarope
EA: 4 Aug (juv.), Big Marsh, LCal (RH, WM); 8Aug, Chau (SB); 10 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 18 Aug, Rice L (KR). **MC**: 8, Chau, 5 Sep (KR). **LD**: 11 Sep, Rice L (KR).

Red Phalarope
EA: 24-25 Sep (**2**–1 through 27 Sep), Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co) (JB, *DJ, *CAW, m.ob.); 28 Sep, LShel.M (TM). **LD**: 6-8 Nov (juv.), McCormick Place, Chi (LO, TS, JKu:ph, m.ob.).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER
7 Sep (juv.), Carl.C. IORC has published acceptance of three previous Illinois records (two of which are from Carl.L) through 2002, (DK:ph).

Laughing Gull
EA: 6 Aug (juv.), Carl.C (DK); 10 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB). **MC**: 4 (ad.), Carl.C, 17 Aug (DK, DJM). **LD**: 12 Nov (ad.), Hennepin L (DFS); 6 Oct (juv.), Carl.C (DK); 3 Oct, Melvin Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co) (FH).

Franklin's Gull
EA: 2 Jul (ad.), Carl.L (DK)–earliest date published as a fall arrival, although some late June records may belong here. **MC**: 24, JP, 14 Nov (KC); 23, HL, 20 Oct (FH); 10, Chau, 17 Oct (KR); 5, Carl.L, 9 Oct (KM); 4, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 3 Nov (FB). **LD**: 14 Nov, JP, as above; 11 Nov, Chau (KM).

[LITTLE GULL
26 Oct - 30 Nov (1st winter), Carl.C.]

Bonaparte's Gull
EA: 14-20 Jul (ad.), Wauk. (AS); 4 Aug, Montrose (JE); 15 Aug, Hennepin L (DFS); 24 Aug, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 2400, Rend L, 18 Nov (KM); 335, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 23 Nov (DFS). Small numbers on L Michigan (m.ob.).

Ring-billed Gull
MC: 5000, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM); 1120, Putnam Co, 15 Aug (DFS); 700, JP, 10 Nov (PRC).

[CALIFORNIA GULL
29 Nov (ad.), Alton (Madison Co).]

Herring Gull
EA: 19 Aug, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) (KM). **MC**: 2000, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 4 Nov (KM); 250, Rockford, 2 Nov (DTW).

Thayer's Gull
EA: **7 Oct** (ad.), GrantP (DFS); 2 Nov (1st winter), Rockford (DTW). **Other**: A report of an adult at Wauk. on **17 Aug** merits documentation. The earliest published fall arrival date for Illinois is 26 Sep 1991 (a documented record), and there are but six dates prior to 12 Oct in the Illinois journals for the years 1984-2002.

Iceland Gull
EA: 30 Nov (1st year), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (AS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 13 Oct (ad., present until 24 Nov), JP (PRC, KC); 26 Oct (ad.), Carl.C (DK, WCR). **MC**: 2 (ad.), Rockford, 2 Nov (DTW); 2 (ad.), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 29 Nov (AS).

Glaucous Gull
EA: 22-23 Nov (1st year), L Decatur (Macon Co) (TM); 28 Nov (2nd year), Montrose (GW); 29 Nov (ad.), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (AS).

Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 27 Oct (ad., present into Dec), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (AS). **Others**: 3 Nov, Wauk. (KM, VM).

Black-legged Kittiwake
29 Nov-1 Dec, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMc, m.ob.).

Caspian Tern
EA: 2 Jul, Carl.F (DK); 28 Jul, JP (KC); 15 Aug, L Charleston (Coles Co) (RB). **MC**: 85, Hennepin L, 15 Aug (DFS); 51, LCal, 10 Aug (GW); 31, Rend L, 18 Aug (FB). **LD**: 11 Oct (2), HL (KM); 6 Oct, JP (PRC); 15 Sep (10), Hennepin L (UG); 15 Sep (2), Rockford (DTW).

Common Tern
EA: 20 Jul, Braidwood L (Will Co) (AA, et al.); 22 Jul, Rice L (KR); 30 Jul, Montrose (JE). **MC**: 25, Chau, 5 Oct (KR); 20, Carl.L, 9 Oct (KM). **LD**: 27 Oct, HL (JM); 19 Oct, Anderson L (Fulton Co) (KR).

Forster's Tern
EA: 22 Jun, Carl.C (DK); 20 Jul, Braidwood L (Will Co) (AA et al.); 27 Jul, Bureau Co (DJS); 1 Aug (4), Montrose (JE). **MC**: 75, Carl.L, 14 Oct (KM); 19, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 3 Nov (FB); 15, Worley L (Tazewell Co), 10 Oct (KR). **LD**: **17 Nov** (3), Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 30 Oct, Melvin Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co) (FH); 17 Oct, Rockford (DTW).

Least Tern
EA: **1 Jul**, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (KR); 27 Jul (ad.), Carl L (DK). **MC**: 4 (2 ad., 2 juv.), HL, 12 Aug (CM); 4 (juv., 2-3 present to 23 Aug), Carl.C, 14 Aug (DK:ph). **LD**: 3 Sep (3), Miller City (Alexander Co) (FB). **Others**: 17-18 Aug, Rice L (KR, LA); 17 Aug, Chau (KR, LA); 18 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 27 Jul (ad.), Carl.F (DK:ph).

SOOTY TERN
4 Oct, Joppa (Massac Co), immediately following Hurricane Lili. **First state record**. (FB). See article in our next issue and details in the IORC report in this issue.

Black Tern
EA: 4 Jul, Shabbona L (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 5 Jul (2), Coles Co (LBH); 22 Jul, HL (KM); 27 Jul, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 120, Carl.C, 14 Aug (DK); 90, Chau, 28 Jul (KR); 27, McHenry Co, 2 Sep (DJS); 12, Heyworth (McLean Co), 11 Aug (MF). **LD**: 27 Sep, Carl.L (KM).

Rock Dove
MC: 640, Du Page Co, 21 Nov (DFS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove
MC: **46**, Montgomery Co, 14 Oct (RJ); 10, Carl.L, 1 Sep (KM); 4, Danvers (McLean Co) (TB et al.); 2, Grand Ridge (**La Salle Co**), 6 Oct (C&JMc).

Mourning Dove
MC: 425, St. Clair Co, 22 Oct (KM); 260, Henry (Marshall Co), 15 Aug (DFS).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 40, Burnham, 9 Aug (DFS); 35, JP, 10 Nov (PRC); 3, Carl.L, 17 Aug (DK).

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 14 Aug, GrantP (DFS); 25 Aug, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (MF). **MC**: 2, Evanston, 30 Aug (JE). **LD**: 22 Sep, Carpenter P, Springfield (Sangamon Co) (RJ); 15 Sep, JP (KC).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 25 Aug, Evanston (JE). **MC**: 5, Carl.L, 14 Sep (KM, IOS). **LD**: 10 Oct (found dead), Champaign (Champaign Co) (RJ); 7 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 5 Oct, JP (SC).

Barn Owl
MC: 2, Cypress Creek NWR (Union Co), 17 Aug (FB).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 3, Pomona (Johnson Co), 28 Sep (RR).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 7, southwest Franklin Co, 20 Sep (LS).

Barred Owl
MC: 14, Franklin Co, 20 Sep & 18 Nov (LS). **Others**: 15 Sep, **JP** (SC, m.ob.)–first JP record.

Long-eared Owl
EA: 13 Nov, Lincoln P, Chi (GW); 17 Nov, Carl.C (DK).

Short-eared Owl
EA: 5 Oct (3), IBSP (EW:photo, see photo in this issue); 20 Nov, Pr.Rdg (LH, BS). **MC**: 5, IBSP, 19 Oct (EW). **LD**: 15 Nov, Wilmette (Cook Co) (JKo).

Short-eared Owl at Illinois Beach State Park. 5 October 2002. Photos by Eric Walters.

Northern Saw-whet Owl
EA: 26 Oct, Hamilton Co (LS). **Others**: 16 Nov (found dead), Bloomington (McLean Co) (fide MF–specimen to Illinois State University); 17 Nov, Carl.C (DK); 22 Nov to end of period, M. Arb. (MBC, JC, m. ob); 24 & 29 Nov, Montrose (GW).

Common Nighthawk
EA: **1 Aug**, Evanston (JE)–the earliest fall migrant date in the recent Illinois journals, although migrants can perhaps be expected occasionally in late July; 14 Aug, M.Arb. (MBC). **MC**: 300+, 22-23 Aug, Orland P (Cook Co) (WS); 80, Evanston, 19 Aug (EW); 65, Madison Co, 16 Sep (FH). **LD**: 3 Oct, Madison Co (FH); 21 Sep, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (UG); 21 Sep, IBSP (EW).

Whip-poor-will
MC: 3, Pomona (Johnson Co), 11 Aug (RR); 2, SRSF (Mason Co), 9 Aug (JC).

Selasphorus Hummingbird, seen 27 Sep through Dec 2002, immature male at feeder. Elgin, Illinois. Photo by Mary Kay Rubey.

Chimney Swift
MC: 500, HL, 18 Sep (KM); 250, Galena (Jo Daviess Co), 29 Aug (DFS); 150, JP, 16 Aug (KC). **LD**: **11 Nov**, McGinnis Slough, Palos (*R&KF)–one of the few exceptional late dates for this highly predictable migrant; 19 Oct, IBSP (AS); 18 Oct, JP (SC); 15 Oct (2), Madison Co (KM). **Others**: albino, HL, 20 Sep (KM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
MC: **70-100**, West Frankfort (Franklin Co), 3 Aug-9 Sep (LS)–record fall high count; 5, Elgin (Kane Co), 20 Sep (fide EW). **LD**: **27 Oct**, Glen Ellyn (Du Page Co) (JF)–record late date for northern Illinois; 27 Oct, Massac Co (FB); 25 Oct, West Frankfort (Franklin Co) (LS); 13 Oct, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (UG).

[*Selasphorus*, SP.
27 Sep-Dec (imm. male at feeder), Elgin, SDo. This bird was likely a Rufous Hummingbird, but none of the photos seen are diagnostic.]

Rufous Hummingbird
14 Nov (female, banded), Mount Vernon (Jefferson Co), (CH:ph). IORC has published acceptance of eight Illinois records (all from fall and winter) through 2002. Late October-25 Dec, (ad. male), Pinckneyville (Perry Co) (BC).

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 7 Jul (2), JP (PRC). **MC**: 4, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS).

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 11 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 41, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 12 Oct (KM). **LD**: 27 Nov (imm.), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 13, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 11, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM). **LD**: 8-9 Oct, JP (PRC, SC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 21 Sep, Montrose (UG); 28 Sep (2), Carl.L (DK). **MC**: 6, GrantP, 8 Oct (DFS); 3, Carl.L, 12 Oct (KM).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 19, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 10, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 7, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 4, Carl.L, 7 Oct (KM).

Northern Flicker
MC: 34, JP, 29 Sep (PRC, KC); 25, Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co), 12 Oct (DFS); 12, Carl.L, 7 Oct (KM). **Others**: **Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted Flicker**, 19 Oct, Carl.L (*DK).

Pileated Woodpecker
30 Aug (2), Chau (R&SBj); 7 Sep, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMc); 11 Oct, Madison Co (FH); 12 Oct, Carl.F (DK).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 8-10 Aug., SRSF (SB, IOS); 24 Aug, Lake Co (KD). **LD**: 25 Sep, Fulton Co (LLH). Only singles reported.

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 25 Aug, JP (PRC). **MC**: 12, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM); 10, M.Arb., 22 Sep (MBC). **LD**: 12 Oct (2), Carl.L (DK, KM); 10 Oct, M.Arb. (MBC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: 10 Aug, IBSP (EW). **LD**: 15 Sep, Fox Run Conservation Area (Putnam Co) (UG); 14 Sep, Carl.L (DK, KM, IOS).

Acadian Flycatcher
EA: 10 Aug, IBSP (EW). **LD**: **3 Oct**, New Columbia (Massac Co) (FB)–record late date; 21 Sep, Montrose (UG, JS).

"Traill's Flycatcher"
EA: 4 Aug, Montrose (JE). **LD**: 30 Sep, JP (SC).

Willow Flycatcher
LD: 24 Sep, Chain of Rocks (Madison Co) (KM).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 20 Jul, Chau (RC); 14 Aug, JP (PRC); 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 2, Carl.L, 24 Sep (KM); 2, Montrose, 24 Aug (JE). **LD**: 6 Oct, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS).

Eastern Phoebe
EA: **4 Aug**, Eggers Woods, LCal (WM); 19 Aug, GrantP (DFS, JE). **MC**: 7, Catlin P (La Salle Co), 13 Oct (C&JMc); 6, JP, 13 Oct (PRC, KC). **LD**: 14 Nov, JP (SC); 9 Nov, Iroquois Co (DFS).

Ash-throated Flycatcher
10 Nov, Montrose. There are but two previous IORC-accepted records for this species. (RH:ph)

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 18 Aug, JP (KC). **LD**: 13 Oct, Dean Hills Nature Preserve (Fayette Co) (RJ).

Western Kingbird
LD: 2 Sep, Pere Marquette SP (Jersey Co) (RJ); 3 Aug, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) (KM, IOS).

Eastern Kingbird
MC: 50+, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co), 18 Aug (MF); 20, Carl.L, 2 Sep (KM). **LD**: 29 Sep, Johnson Co (FB); 24 Sep, Jasper Co (LH); 21 Sep, Hennepin L (C&JMc); 11 Sep, Argonne National Laboratory (Du Page Co) (UG).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
8 Nov, IBSP (*TL)–**record late date** and first November record for Illinois.

Loggerhead Shrike
MC: 2, Franklin Co, 29 Oct (LS). **Others**: 5 Aug, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co) (Jll); 9 Aug., near Easton (Mason Co.) (SB). Poor numbers in southern Illinois (KM).

Northern Shrike
EA: 4 Nov, IBSP (KM); 14 Nov, Chi (JLl); 29 Nov, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (JC, MBC).

White-eyed Vireo
MC: 7, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM). **LD**: 11 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 28 Sep, Illini SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMe).

Bell's Vireo
MC: 2, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK); 2, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS). **LD**: 6 Sep, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co) (DJS); 1 Sep, eastern Franklin Co (C&JMc); 1 Sep (2), Fermi (UG, R&KF).

Yellow-throated Vireo
MC: 4, Apple River Canyon SP (Jo Daviess Co), 30 Aug (DFS); 2 Carl.L, 27-28 Sep (KM, DK). **LD**: 7 Oct, Rend L (KM); 5 Oct (2), JP (SC); 5 Oct, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (MBC).

Blue-headed Vireo
EA: 22 Sep, JP (SC, PRC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 2, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DK). **LD**: 16 Nov, JP (GD); 28 Oct, Rend L (LS).

Warbling Vireo
MC: 5, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM); 4, JP, 3 Sep (KC). **LD**: 20 Sep, Carl.L (KM); 15 Sep, Fox Run Conservation Area (Putnam Co) (UG); 13 Sep, JP (KC).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 11 Sep, JP (SF); 14 Sep, Carl.L (KM, IOS). **MC**: 3, JP, 21 Sep (SC, WS); 3, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 1 Sep (DFS); 2, LShel.M (TM). **LD**: 13 Oct, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 10 Oct, M. Arb. (MBC); 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK).

Red-eyed Vireo
MC: 18, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 10, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM). **LD**: 11 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 10 Oct, JP (KC).

Blue Jay
EA: 29 Aug, JP (KC). **MC**: **377**, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 12 Oct (KM)–highest fall count in the recent Illinois journals (dating to 1984); 41, IBSP, 5 Oct; 38, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 12 Oct (RJ).

American Crow
MC: 450, Madison Co, 31 Oct (KM); 163, JP, 5 Nov (PRC); 110, Carl.C, 20 Oct (DK). Found in very low numbers in Chicago area, except along Chicago's lakefront, where near-normal numbers recorded. Also well below normal in St. Louis area.

Fish Crow
LD: 29 Sep (3), Mermet L (FB). **Others**: 29, Rend L, 31 Aug (LH, BS, KM, FB).

Horned Lark
EA: 5 Oct (2), IBSP (EW). **MC**: 110, Kendall Co, 10 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 13 Nov, Evanston (EW).

Purple Martin
EA: 25 Jun (10), Evanston (EW); 28 Jul, JP (PRC). **MC**: 1265, Carl.L, 2 Aug (KM, DK); 570, Montrose, 23 Aug (GW); 37, JP, 16 Aug (KC). **LD**: 20 Sep, Carl.L (KM); 3 Sep (2), JP (KC).

Tree Swallow
EA: 7 Aug (2), JP (KC). **MC**: 50,000, Carl.L, 12 Oct (KM); 26,000, Hennepin L, 6 Oct (C&JMc); 234, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW). **LD**: 15 Nov, HL (FH); 11 Nov (5), Clin.L (RJ); 11 Nov, Chau (KM); 10 Nov (5), Shabbona L (De Kalb Co) (DJS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: **30 Jun** (6), Evanston (EW). **MC**: 1000, Hennepin L, 3 Aug (C&JMc); 475, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK). **LD**: 20 Oct, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (DJS); 10 Oct, HL (KM).

Bank Swallow
EA: 4 Jul (86), IBSP (EW). **MC**: 2000, Chau, 8-10 Aug (SB, IOS); 100+, Chau, 1 Sep (LLH); 100, Hennepin L, 21 Jul (C&JMc). **LD**: 9 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 6 Oct, HL (FH).

Cliff Swallow
MC: 50, Carl.L, 22 Aug (KM). **LD**: **20 Oct**, Carl.L (DK)–second latest Illinois depature date.

Barn Swallow
MC: 750, HL, 11 Oct (KM); 175, Hennepin L, 3 Aug (C&JMc). **LD**: **16 Nov**, Chau (KM); 6 Nov (2), Mermet L (FB).

Carolina Chickadee
MC: **30+**, Christopher L (Franklin Co) (LS); 20, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM).

Black-capped Chickadee
EA: 19 Oct (14–first influx), IBSP (EW). **MC**: 73, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 15, Weldon Springs SP (DeWitt Co), 11 Nov (RJ).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 22, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM); **17**, Galena (Jo Daviess Co), 17 Nov (DFS)–highest fall count for northern Illinois in recent journals; 15, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 12 Oct (RJ). **Others**: 21 Sep, IBSP (EW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 3, M. Arb., 24 Nov (DFS). Very poor numbers.

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 18, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 18 Aug (DFS); 9, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 12 Oct (RJ); 8, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM). **LD**: 15 Oct, JP (PRC).

Brown Creeper
EA: 28 Sep, JP (SC); 7 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: **38**, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS)–**record fall high count**; 9, Weldon Springs SP (DeWitt Co), 11 Nov (RJ). **LD**: 17 Nov, JP (PRC, SC).

Carolina Wren
MC: 7, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM); 4, JP, 25 Aug & 15 Oct (PRC). **Others**: 19-22 Oct, Evanston (EW); 20 Oct-16 Nov (1-2), Lincoln P, Chi (GW, m. ob).

House Wren
MC: 7, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS); 3, JP, 18 Aug (PRC). **LD**: 13 Oct, JP (PRC); 12 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 9 Oct, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH).

Winter Wren
EA: 18 Sep, JP (PRC, BH); 11 Oct (3), Carl.C (DK). **MC**: **47**, JP, 29 Oct (PRC)–second highest fall count. **LD**: into Dec.

Sedge Wren
EA: **7 Jul**, Pr.Rdg (LH)–see remarks; 19 Jul (3), Carl.C (DK); 18 Aug, Fermi (UG); 11 Sep, JP (DA). **MC**: 8, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 18 Aug (FB); 6, Chau, 17 Oct (KR); 6, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS). **LD**: 17 Oct, Chau, as above; 8 Oct, GrantP (DFS). **Remarks**: The recent Illinois journals include numerous July dates for early fall arrivals of Sedge Wrens, with this year's date of 7 Jul being the earliest. Virtually all these data come from the southern half of the state, and their status as southbound migrants appears dubious at best. This species is expeeted in migration from mid-September, and limited early migration doubtless occurs in August, while July dates suggest a pattern of post-breeding dispersal rather than migration.

Marsh Wren
EA: 15 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 3, Chau, 3 Oct (KR). **LD**: 12 Oct, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 6 Oct, HL (FH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 21 Sep, JP (KC); 5 Oct, Carl.C (KM, DK); 12 Oct (2), Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR). **MC**: **250**, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS)–second highest Illinois fall count; 20, Carl.L, 12 Oct (KM); 14, L Springfield (Sangamon Co), 17 Nov (RJ).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 17 Sep, JP (KC); 29 Sep, Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 57, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS); 35, Carl.L, 12 Oct (KM). **LD**: 24 Nov, Montrose (GW); 23 Nov, JP (SC); 17 Nov, HL (FH); 9 Nov, Iroquois Co (DFS).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
EA: 25 Aug, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (MF). **LD**: 7 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 5 Oct, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co) (AA).

Eastern Bluebird
MC: **102**, IBSP, 5 Oct (SH, EW)–record fall high count; 18, Carl.L, 22 Aug (KM); 17, Clin.L, 11 Nov (RJ). **LD**: 24 Nov (2), IBSP (EW, m.ob.).

Veery
EA: 1 Sep, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 3 Sep, JP (KC). **LD**: 5 Oct, IBSP (EW); 20 Sep, Carl.L (KM).

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 30 Aug, Apple River Canyon SP (Jo Daviess Co) (DFS); 4 Sep, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 3, JP, 22 Sep (PRC). **LD**: **4 Nov**, JP (KC).

Swainson's Thrush
EA: 24 Aug, JP (SC). **MC**: 50+, Evanston, 25 Aug (JE); 30+, Evanston, 4 Sep (EW); 5, Carl.L, 14 Sep (KM, IOS). **LD**: **8-10 Dec**, JP (*PRC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Hermit Thrush
EA: 27 Sep, JP (SC); 12 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 106, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS); 32, Evanston, 13 Oct (EW). **LD**: into Dec.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. 2 November 2003. Photo by Eric Walters.

Wood Thrush
LD: 12 Oct, JP (SC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 22 Sep, Carpenter P, Springfield (Sangamon Co) (RJ).

American Robin
MC: 720, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 16 Oct (KM); 505, IBSP, 15 Oct (EW); 269, Pomona (Johnson Co), 26 Oct (RR).

Gray Catbird
MC: 38, Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co), 12 Oct (DFS); 30, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM). **LD**: 16 Nov, Coles Co (LBH).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 10, Mason Co., 8-10 Aug (SB,IOS); 6, Chain of Rocks (Madison Co), 24 Sep (KM).

Brown Thrasher
MC: 10, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM). **LD**: 10 Nov, The Hollows FP (McHenry Co) (DFS); 10 Nov, HL (FH).

European Starling
MC: 1200, Kendall Co, 10 Aug (DFS); 900+, Riverwoods (Lake Co), 8 Nov (EW).

American Pipit
EA: **1 Sep**, Carl.F (DK); 14 Sep, Chau (KR); 15 Sep, Rockford (DTW). **MC**: **200**, Chau, 12 Oct (KR); **178**, Shabbona P (La Salle Co), 3 Nov (C&JMc); 65+, Rend L (Jefferson Co), 3 Nov (FB). **LD**: 24 Nov (30), De Kalb Co (DJS); 20 Nov (21), Jasper Co (LH, BS); 9 Nov, IBSP (EW).

Cedar Waxwing
MC: 739, JP, 14 Aug (PRC, KC); 560, GrantP, 14 Aug (DFS); 100, Clin.L, 10 Nov (KM). **LD**: 15 Nov (7), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW).

Blue-winged Warbler
EA: 10 Aug, IBSP (EW). **MC**: 3, Apple River Canyon SP (Jo Daviess Co), 30 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 28 Sep, Carl.C (DK); 19 Sep, Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 18 Sep, JP (PRC).

Golden-winged Warbler
EA: 26 Aug, Warbler Woods Nature Presearve (Coles Co) (LBH). **MC**: 3, JP, 21 Sep (SC, WS); 3, West Du Page Woods FP (Du Page Co), 14 Sep (UG). **LD**: 28 Sep, Carl.C (DK); 24 Sep, JP (PRC).

Tennessee Warbler
EA: 3 Aug (female), IBSP (EW); 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 28, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM); 15, JP, 22 Sep (KC). **LD**: 30 Oct, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (R&KF); 20 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 14 Oct, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co) (RJ).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: 9 Sep, JP (KC). **MC**: 6, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 13 Oct (DFS); 4, Carl.L, 12 Oct (KM). **LD**: 4 Nov, Glencoe (KM); 3 Nov, JP (PRC).

Nashville Warbler
EA: 31 Aug, JP (SC). **MC**: 17, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 6 Oct (DFS); 12, Carl.L, 7 Oct (KM). **LD**: 19 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 16 Oct, Lincoln P, Chi (GW); 16 Oct, JP (SC); 13 Oct, Rockford (DTW).

Northern Parula
EA: 6 Sep, JP (KC). **MC**: 6, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM). **LD**: **16 Nov**, Linc.P (*GW)–**record late date** excluding three winter records; 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 24 Sep, JP (PRC); 13 Sep, Rockford (DTW).

Yellow Warbler
MC: **16**, GrantP, 12 Aug (JE)–**record fall high count** (a published count of 240 individuals on 23 Sep 1989 is assumed to be a typographical error). **LD**: 15 Sep, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM); 2 Sep (3), Carl.F (KM); 30 Aug, JP (KC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
EA: 25 Aug, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (MF); 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 12, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM); 7, JP, 22 Sep (JP). **LD**: 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 6 Oct, Beck L (Cook Co) (JLd); 5 Oct, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co) (MBC).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 23 Aug, Eggers Woods, LCal (MW, SB); 25 Aug, Evanston (JE). **MC**: 8, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM); 8, JP, 22 Sep, 24 Sep & 27 Sep (PRC, KC). **LD**: 26 Oct, Linc.P (CTh); 11 Oct, Carl.C (DK).

Cape May Warbler
EA: 11 Sep, JP (SC); 14 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 12, Big Marsh, LCal, 22 Sep (WM); 11, JP, 24 Sep (PRC). **LD**: 9 Oct, JP (KC); 9 Oct, GrantP (DFS).

Pine Warbler at Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. 12 November 2002. Photo by Eric Walters.

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: 21 Aug, JP (KC); 6 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 6, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM); 4, JP, 22 & 27 Sep (PRC, KC). **LD**: 13 Oct, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 6 Oct, JP (SC); 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK).

American Redstart
EA: 18 Aug, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 25 Aug, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (MF); 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 14, JP, 9 Sep (KC); 10, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM). **LD**: 15 Oct, JP (PRC).

Prothonotary Warbler
LD: **22 Sep**, Carl.C (DK, WCR); 26 Aug, Warbler Woods Nature Preserve (Coles Co) (LBH); 6 Aug, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (JC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler
EA: 14 Sep (2), West Du Page Woods FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 15 Sep, Carl.C. (DK); 15 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 7, JP, 8 Oct (PRC, BH, SC). **LD**: 8 Oct, JP, as above.

Yellow-rumped Warbler
EA: **5 Aug** (female), Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (*R&KF)–**record early arrival date**. **MC**: 260, Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co) (DFS); 250+, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 10 Oct (WS); 185, Carl.L, 9 Oct (KM). **LD**: into Dec.

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 23 Aug, Eggers Woods, LCal (MW, SB); 25 Aug, Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co) (MF); 31 Aug, JP (SF). **MC**: 9, JP, 22 Sep (PRC); 8, Humboldt P, Chi, 26 Oct (CTh); 6, Carl.L, 14 Sep (KM, IOS). **LD**: 20 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 19 Oct, Montrose (GW); 12 Oct, Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co) (DFS); 5 Oct, Coles Co (RB).

Townsend's Warbler
12 Oct, Montrose. There are three previously accepted records in the IORC reports, all from early May. (GG,RH:ph,GW:ph).

Blackburnian Warbler
EA: 25 Aug, Evanston (JE); 25 Aug, JP (PRC, KC); 25 Aug, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM); 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 6, Apple River Canyon SP (Jo Daviess Co), 30 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 13 Oct (2), Catlin P (La Salle Co) (C&JMc); 7 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 21 Sep, JP (WS).

Yellow-throated Warbler
LD: 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 15 Sep, Macon Co (TM).

Pine Warbler
EA: 28 Aug, Lincoln P, Chi (GW); 30 Aug, Evanston (JE). **MC**: 3, SRSF (Mason Co), 8-10 Aug (SB, IOS); 3, M.Arb., 23 Sep (JC). **LD**: 12-13 Nov, Wilmette (Cook Co) (JB, EW:ph, see photo in this issue).

Palm Warbler
EA: 11 Sep, JP (KC, SC); 11 Sep, Wolf L, (Cook Co.) (CAM). **MC**: 38, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 6 Oct (DFS); 31, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW). **LD**: 12 Nov, JP (PRC, BH); 8 Nov, GrantP (DFS).

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 4 Sep, JP (KC). **MC**: 35, JP, 21 Sep (WS); 10, Carl.L, 27 Sep (KM). **LD**: 11 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 7 Oct, Rend L (KM); 6 Oct, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS).

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 25 Aug, Evanston (JE). **MC**: 11, JP, 22 Sep (PRC). **LD**: 19 Oct, Fermi (UG); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Cerulean Warbler
EA: 14 Aug (female), Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (R&KF). **LD**: 13 Sep, Rockford (DTW).

Worm-eating Warbler
LD: 29 Aug, Union Co Conservation Area (Union Co) (JC).

Ovenbird
EA: 4 Sep, JP (KC); 6 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 4, JP, 22 Sep (PRC); 3, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM). **LD**: 21 Oct, Chi (GW); 14 Oct, JP (SC); 7 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: 14 Aug, JP (PRC). **MC**: 7, GrantP, 14 Aug (DFS). **LD**: 12 Oct, Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co) (DFS).

Connecticut Warbler
EA: 31 Aug, JP (SC); 12 Sep, Chau (KR). **MC**: 3, New Columbia (Massac Co), 5 Oct (FB). **LD**: 2 Oct, Montrose (JLi). **Others**: A report of 3 in Massac Co on 5 Oct is remarkable if valid, as previous fall records from southern Illinois are very few and confined to singles, and the date is remarkably late for a peak passage.

Mourning Warbler
EA: 24 Aug, Evanston (JE). **LD**: 5 Oct, JP (SC).

Common Yellowthroat
EA: 8 Sep, JP (KC). **MC**: 12, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM). **LD**: 27 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 16 Oct, GrantP (DFS); 12 Oct, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (UG).

Wilson's Warbler
EA: 25 Aug, Evanston (JE). **MC**: 5, JP, 5 Sep (KC). **LD**: 28 Oct, HL (KM); 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 26 Sep, JP (KC).

Canada Warbler
EA: 17 Aug, Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co) (EW). **LD**: 24 Sep, Rend L (LS); 22 Sep, JP (PRC); 20 Sep, Carl.L (KM).

Yellow-breasted Chat
LD: 23 Sep, Rend L (LS); 16 Sep, JP (KC); 15 Sep, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (UG).

Summer Tanager
EA: 29 Aug, Carl.L (KM); 29 Aug, Chau (KR). **MC**: 3, SRSF, 10 Aug (SB,IOS); 2, Pomona (Johnson Co), 17 Aug (RR); 2, Carl.C, 14 Sep (KM, DK, IOS). **LD**: **26 Oct**, Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR); **23 Oct**, Massac Co (FB); 5 Oct, Coles Co (RB); 24 Sep, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). Other than a record from Dec 1993, this fall's late dates tie the previous second and third latest dates for the state.

Scarlet Tanager
EA: 6 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 4, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 6 Oct (DFS). **LD**: 9 Oct, JP (SC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Spotted Towhee
16 Oct (male), GrantP (DFS, m. ob); 18 Oct - 5 Nov, Evanston (BN, EW:ph); 10-19 Nov (female), JP (*PRC).

Eastern Towhee
EA: 2 Oct, JP (KC). **MC**: 17, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS); 4, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW). **LD**: 3 Dec, Hyde Park, Chi (PRC).

American Tree Sparrow
EA: 13 Oct, Salt Creek (Cook Co) (DFS); 15 Oct, IBSP (EW); 19 Oct, Fermi (UG). **MC**: 33, southeast McHenry Co, 10 Nov (DFS).

Chipping Sparrow
MC: 60, Lodge (Piatt Co.), 25 Sep (RJ); 50, Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co), 15 Sep (UG); 50, West Frankfort (Franklin Co), 29 Oct (LS). **LD**: 29 Nov (2), M.Arb. (UG); 11 Nov (3), DeWitt Co (RJ); 10 Nov, Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR).

Clay-colored Sparrow
LD: 16 Oct, GrantP (DFS); 10 Oct, Chau (KR).

Field Sparrow
MC: 11, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS); 9, IBSP, 15 Oct (EW). **LD**: 10 Nov, Clin.L (KM, DK). No fall reports from JP for first time in 24 years of records (PRC).

Vesper Sparrow
LD: 19 Oct, Carl.C (DK).

Lark Sparrow
EA: 19 Aug, GrantP (DFS, JE).

Savannah Sparrow
EA: 19 Aug (2), GrantP (DFS, JE). **MC**: 40, 18 Bottoms (Franklin Co), 4 Nov (LS); 20, Carl.C, 6 Oct (DK) and 14 Oct (KM); 18, Evanston, 27 Sep (EW). **LD**: 12 Nov, Evanston (EW).

Grasshopper Sparrow
EA: 27 Sep, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 3, Carl.C, 4 Aug (DK).

Henslow's Sparrow
EA: 2 Oct, JP (SC). **MC**: 10, near Little America (Fulton Co.), 8-10 Aug (SB,IOS); 7, Cypress Creek NWR (Union Co) (FB).

Le Conte's Sparrow
MC: 10+, Pr.Rdg, 9 Oct (LH); 8, Chau, 17 Oct (KR). **LD**: 27 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 19 Oct, IBSP (EW).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
EA: 21 Sep, JP (SC). **MC**: 15, Chau, 10 Oct (KR); 8, IBSP, 5 Oct (DTW, EW). **LD**: 14 Oct, Carl.C (KM, DK).

Fox Sparrow
EA: 2 Oct, JP (SC); 16 Oct, Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR). **MC**: **47**, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS)–**record fall high count**. **LD**: into Dec.

Song Sparrow
EA: 5 Aug, GrantP (JE). **MC**: 51, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS); 30, HL, 19 Oct (KM).

Lincoln's Sparrow
EA: 11 Sep, JP (KC, SC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 16 (window kills), McCormick Place, Chi, 6 Oct (DEW); 7, Carl.C, 19 Oct (DK); 6, Chau, 3 Oct (KR). **LD**: 6 Nov, Evanston (EW); 6 Nov, McCormiek Place, Chi (DFS).

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 22 Sep, JP (SC); 26 Sep, Coles Co (LBH); 5 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: 200, Chau, 10 Oct (KR); 69, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS). **LD**: 28 Nov, JP (PRC).

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 12 Sep, JP (PRC). **MC**: 445, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS); 55, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 12 Oct (RJ).

Harris's Sparrow
EA: 18 Oct, Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C&JMc). **LD**: 1 Nov, Evanston (EW).

White-crowned Sparrow
EA: 21 Sep, Montrose (UG); 14 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC**: **260**, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS)–**record fall high count**; 37, Rockford, 10 Nov (DTW).

Dark-eyed Junco
EA: 21 Sep, River Forest (Cook Co) (JA); 24 Sep, JP (PRC); 9 Oct, Mattoon (Coles Co) (RB); 10 Oct, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (FB); 12 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 16 Oct, Pomona (Johnson Co) (RR). **MC**: 450, GrantP, 16 Oct (DFS).

Lapland Longspur
EA: 5 Oct (2), IBSP (EW). **MC**: 150, Clin.L, 16 Nov (KR); 75+ , Richland Co , 8 Nov (LH); 70, Kane Co, 31 Nov (DFS); 60, Shabbona P (La Salle Co), 3 Nov (C&JMc); 60, Lee Co, 3 Nov (C&JMc).

Smith's Longspur
MC: 2, Chau, 16 Nov (KR)–the only report.

Snow Bunting
EA: 16 Oct, GrantP (DFS). **MC**: 14, IBSP, 23 Oct (AS); 8, Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 16 Nov (DTW). **LD**: 25 Nov (8), IBSP (EW).

Northern Cardinal
MC: 37, Carl.L, 2 Oct (KM); 23, JP, 17 Nov (PRC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: 3 Sep, JP (KC). **MC**: 15, Carl.L, 20 Sep (KM). **LD**: 12 Oct (2), Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co) (DFS); 6 Oct, Carl.C (DK); 5 Oct, JP (SC).

Blue Grosbeak
MC: 6 (4 males, 1 pr.), (Mason Co), 9-10 Aug (SB,IOS); 5, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK). **LD**: 11 Oct, Johnson Co (FB); 9 Oct (imm. male), Pr.Rdg (LH); 6 Oct, HL (FH).

Indigo Bunting
MC: 35, Carl.C, 6 Oct (DK). **LD**: 27 Oct, Catlin P (La Salle Co) (C&JMc); 20 Oct (3), Carl.C (DK).

Dickcissel
MC: 23, Carl.L, 4 Aug (KM, IOS). **LD**: 10 Oct, Chau (KR); 9 Oct (2), Pr.Rdg (LH).

Bobolink
EA: 24 Aug (5), Carl.C (DK). **MC**: 20, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW, SH). **LD**: 9 Oct (2), Pr.Rdg (LH).

Red-winged Blackbird
MC: 5300, Hennepin L, 12 Nov (DFS). Few data submitted.

Eastern Meadowlark
MC: **57**, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW)–record fall count for northern Illinois; 12, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM). **LD**: 19 Oct (2), IBSP (EW); 13 Oct, JP (PRC).

Western Meadowlark
LD: 17 Nov, Carl.C (DK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
LD: 5 Sep, Chau (KR); 6 Aug, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (JC); 2 Aug, Hegewisch Marsh, LCal (WM).

Rusty Blackbird
EA: 27 Sep, Evanston (EW). Few reports.

Brewer's Blackbird
MC: 25, Carl.C, 9 Nov (DK); 12+ Dunham Rd sodfarm (McHerny Co), 12 Aug (SB,SD); 2, IBSP, 11 Aug (AS). **LD**: 19 Nov (4), Union Co Conservation Area (Union Co) (KM, CL).

Common Grackle
MC: 50,000, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 18 Nov (KM).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: 1000, St. Clair Co, 20 Oct (KM).

Orchard Oriole
MC: 4, Hennepin L, 15 Aug (DFS)–fall high count for northern Illinois.

Baltimore Oriole
EA: 24 Aug (2), Montrose (JE). **MC**: 7, Carl.L, 29 Aug (KM). **LD**: 8 Sep, HL (FH); 3 Sep, JP (KC).

Purple Finch
EA: 22 Sep (2), Chau (KR); 5 Oct, IBSP (EW); 3 Nov, Ashmore Township (Coles Co) (RB) **MC**: 2, Chau, as above; 2, IBSP, 15 Oct (EW). **LD**: 24 Nov, Clin.L (MR); 22 Nov (female), Woodridge (Du Page Co) (JC). Very few records; no high counts.

House Finch
MC: 30, Rockford, 2 Nov (DTW); 17, Westchester (Cook Co), 2 Oct (DFS); 10, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 26 Aug (KM). Very low numbers at JP (PRC); few high counts reported.

Red Crossbill
4, SRSF (Mason Co), 25 Nov (KR)–the only report.

Pine Siskin
EA: **14 Sep**, Rockford (CLW); 15 Oct, IBSP (EW). **MC**: 2, River Forest (Cook Co), 2 Nov (JA). Few records, even for a non-flight year; none at Downers Grove (Du Page Co) for first time in eight years (R&KF).

American Goldfinch
MC: **4730**, IBSP, 5 Oct (EW)–**record Illinois high count**, topping previous highs of 2000 from same site on 28 Sep 1986 & 12 Nov 1998; 51, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 2 Oct (DFS); 40, Carl.L, 7 Oct (KM).

House Sparrow
MC: 100, Kendall Co, 11 Aug (DFS).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 30, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 2 Aug (KM, DK).

EXOTICS:

Trumpeter Swan
MC: 4 (2 ad., 2 imm.), Kankakee (Kankakee Co), 9 Nov (DFS).

Ringed Turtle-Dove
MC: 14, Coal City (Grundy Co), 29 Nov (DFS).

—Douglas F. Stotz,
Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist
Environmental and Conservation Programs
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

dstotz@fmnh.org

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A Lesser Yellowlegs finds a worm at the Cooling Sod Farm,
Boone County, 23 August 2002.
Photo by Mary Kay Rubey.